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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
OXFORD DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PLAINTIFF

VS.

NO. 3:21CR107

JAMARR SMITH, THOMAS IROKO AYODELE,  
AND GILBERT McTHUNEL, II

DEFENDANTS

TRANSCRIPT OF JURY TRIAL  
VOLUME 5 OF 5

BEFORE HONORABLE SHARION AYCOCK  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Oxford, Mississippi  
February 24, 2023

(APPEARANCES NOTED HEREIN)

Court Reporter:

PHYLLIS K. McLARTY, RMR, FCRR, CCR #1235  
Federal Official Court Reporter  
911 Jackson Avenue East  
Oxford, MS 38655

1 APPEARANCES:

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7 For the Defendant  
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12 For the Defendant  
13 Ayodele: WILLIAM F. TRAVIS, Esquire  
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16 For the Defendant  
17 McThunel: PAUL A. CHINICHE, Esquire  
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1 (CALL TO ORDER OF THE COURT AT 9:35 A.M.)

2           **THE COURT:** Before we bring the jury in, a couple of  
3 things. I thought about the issue that we raised, and the  
4 clerks have done some research. So my gut feeling is kind of  
5 confirmed by this case law, and that is this, is that the  
6 defendant should be entitled to make the defense and to argue  
7 the defense they want to argue.

8           We did find a case. That's *United States of America*  
9 *versus Mary Ann Lara*, L-a-r-a. It is a Fifth Circuit 2022  
10 case. This was in reference to some comments that the  
11 prosecutor had made during opening statements, but it says, "An  
12 attorney is entitled to urge the conclusions which the attorney  
13 thinks the jury should draw from the evidence." And it goes on  
14 to state that, "In doing so" -- and in this case, it was the  
15 Government -- "the Government has some -- asked some rhetorical  
16 questions in opening that are inferential in substance." And  
17 that was permissible.

18           So we have some evidence in this case that the jury  
19 might infer regarding Brown and -- I'm sorry. The other name I  
20 don't recall right now.

21           **MR. MIMS:** Hines, Your Honor.

22           **THE COURT:** Thank you. So, yes, we -- you will be  
23 allowed to argue that. Now --

24           **MR. CHINICHE:** Your Honor, there -- there may be  
25 others other than those two.

1                   **THE COURT:** It may be.

2                   **MR. CHINICHE:** Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

3                   **THE COURT:** Uh-huh. I didn't mean to limit it to  
4 that, but those are the two that I think we touched on the  
5 most.

6                   I'm going to attempt to read these jury instructions  
7 this morning. Last week I did not. I asked the attorneys'  
8 permission to allow a law clerk to read them. If I start  
9 coughing a lot, it's more distracting for them to hear me  
10 coughing. Then they don't hear the instruction.

11                  **MR. MIMS:** Your Honor, I'll tell you on the front end  
12 for the Government, we have no objection to that.

13                  **THE COURT:** Okay. Is that okay with y'all?

14                  **MR. CHINICHE:** No objection.

15                  **MR. LEWIS:** No objection.

16                  **MR. TRAVIS:** No objection, Your Honor.

17                  **THE COURT:** This has been Ms. Natalie's case, and  
18 she's prepared. And I'm going to start, and I hope I get  
19 through it, but I don't want to be distracting.

20                  Okay. Let's bring in the jury.

21                  **MR. LEWIS:** We need to rest.

22                  **THE COURT:** Oh, thank you. Just one second. Just one  
23 second. Do you want to do that in the presence of the jury?

24                  **MR. CHINICHE:** Yes, Your Honor.

25                  **MR. LEWIS:** Yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.

2 (JURY IN.)

3 THE COURT: You may have a seat.

4                   Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome back  
5 to Friday morning, and I hope that you had a good night's rest  
6 and are now ready to listen to jury instructions and closing  
7 arguments. Again, I anticipate you'll get this case today  
8 around noon.

9                   Okay. So I've cleared this with the lawyers. I'm  
10                   about to read to you the jury instructions.

11 MR. CHINICHE: Your Honor --

12 THE COURT: Yes. Thank you.

13                   **MR. CHINICHE:** -- if I may, on behalf of Mr. McThunel,  
14 Mr. McThunel would rest his case.

15 | THE COURT: Thank you.

16 MR. LEWIS: Jamarr Smith rests.

17 | THE COURT: Thank you.

18                   **MR. TRAVIS:** May it please the Court. Your Honor, on  
19 behalf of Mr. Ayodele, defense rests.

20 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you.

21 Confirming what I told you yesterday, no further  
22 testimony.

23 I'm going to attempt to read you these jury  
24 instructions. I've been coughing. I don't want my cough to  
25 distract you from being able to hear this. So if I start

1 coughing -- I've already got preclearance from them -- I'm  
2 going to hand it off to a clerk, Ms. Natalie Lowry, who's been  
3 working on this case. And she's simply going to go to the  
4 podium and read them to you as if they were my instructions.  
5 Okay?

6 Members of the jury: In any jury trial, there are, in  
7 effect, two judges. I am one of the judges. The other is the  
8 jury. It is my duty to preside over the trial and to decide  
9 what evidence is proper for your consideration. It is also my  
10 duty at the end of the trial to explain to you the rules of law  
11 that you must follow in applying -- in arriving at your  
12 verdict.

13 First, I will give you some general instructions which  
14 apply in every case, for example, instructions about the burden  
15 of proof and how a judge -- how to judge the believability of  
16 witnesses. Then I will give you some specific rules of law  
17 about this particular case, and, finally, I will explain to you  
18 the procedures that you'll use in your deliberations.

19 You, as jurors, are the judges of the facts. But in  
20 determining what actually happened, that is, in reaching your  
21 decisions as to the facts, it is your sworn duty to follow all  
22 of the rules of law as I have explained them to you.

23 You have no right to disregard or give special  
24 attention to any one instruction or to question the wisdom or  
25 the correctness of any rule that I state to you. You must not

1 substitute or follow your own notion or opinion as to what the  
2 law ought to be. It is your duty to apply the law as I explain  
3 it to you regardless of the consequences.

4 It is also your duty to base your verdict solely upon  
5 the evidence without prejudice or sympathy. That was the  
6 promise you made and the oath you took before being accepted by  
7 the parties as jurors, and they have the right to expect  
8 nothing less.

9 The indictment or formal charge against the defendant  
10 is not evidence of guilt. Indeed, all defendants are presumed  
11 by the law to be innocent. The defendants begin with a clean  
12 slate. The law does not require the defendants to prove their  
13 innocence or to produce any evidence at all, and no inference  
14 whatsoever may be drawn from the election of the defendants not  
15 to testify.

16 The Government has the burden of proving the  
17 defendants guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. And if it fails  
18 to do so as to any defendant, you must acquit that defendant.  
19 While the Government's burden of proof is a strict or heavy  
20 burden, it is not necessary that the defendants' guilt be  
21 proved beyond all possible doubt. It is only required that the  
22 Government's proof exclude any reasonable doubt concerning the  
23 defendants' guilt.

24 A reasonable doubt is a doubt based upon reason and  
25 common sense after careful and impartial consideration of all

1 of the evidence in the case. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt,  
2 therefore, is proof to such a convincing character that you  
3 would be willing to rely and act upon it without hesitation in  
4 making some of the most important decisions of your own  
5 affairs.

6 In considering the evidence, you are permitted to draw  
7 such reasonable inferences from the testimony and exhibits as  
8 you feel are justified in the light of common experience. In  
9 other words, you may make deductions and reach conclusions that  
10 reason and common sense lead you to draw from the facts which  
11 have been established by the evidence.

12 Do not be concerned about whether evidence is direct  
13 evidence or circumstantial evidence. You should consider and  
14 weigh the evidence that was presented to you.

15 Direct evidence is the testimony of one who asserts  
16 actual knowledge of a fact, such as an eyewitness.

17 Circumstantial evidence is proof of a chain of events and  
18 circumstances indicating that something is or is not a fact.

19 The law makes no distinction between the weight to be  
20 given either direct or circumstantial evidence. But the law  
21 requires that you have to weigh all of the evidence, whether  
22 direct or circumstantial, be convinced of the guilt of the  
23 defendants beyond a reasonable doubt before you can find them  
24 guilty.

25 As I told you earlier, it is my duty to determine --

1 it is your duty to determine the facts. To do so, you must  
2 consider only the evidence presented during the trial.  
3 Evidence is a sworn -- evidence is the sworn testimony of the  
4 witnesses, including stipulations, and exhibits. The  
5 questions, statements, objections, and arguments made by the  
6 lawyers are not evidence.

7 The function of the lawyers is to point out those  
8 things that are most significant or most helpful to their side  
9 of the case and, in doing so, to call your attention to certain  
10 facts or inferences that may otherwise escape your notice. In  
11 the final analysis, however, it is your own recollection and  
12 interpretation of the evidence that controls the case. What  
13 the lawyers say is not binding upon you.

14 During the trial, I sustained objections to certain  
15 questions and exhibits. You must disregard those questions  
16 entirely. Do not speculate as to what the witness would have  
17 said if permitted to answer the question. Also, certain  
18 testimony or other evidence has been ordered stricken from the  
19 record, and you have been instructed to disregard that  
20 evidence. Do not consider any testimony or other evidence  
21 which has been removed from your consideration in reaching your  
22 decision. Your verdict must be based solely upon the legally  
23 admissible evidence and testimony.

24 Also, do not assume anything I have said or done  
25 during the trial or -- that I have -- don't assume that I have

1 any opinion concerning any of the issues in this case. Except  
2 for the instructions to you on the law, you should disregard  
3 anything I may have said during the trial in arriving at your  
4 own verdict.

5 I remind you that it is your job to decide whether the  
6 Government has proved -- has proved the guilt of the defendants  
7 beyond a reasonable doubt. In so doing, you must consider all  
8 of the evidence. This does not mean, however, that you must  
9 accept all of the evidence as true or accurate.

10 You are the sole judges of the credibility or  
11 believability of each witness and the weight to be given to  
12 that witness's testimony. An important part of your job will  
13 be making judgments about the testimony of the witnesses who  
14 testified in this case. You should decide whether you believe  
15 all, some part of, or none of each person -- what each person  
16 had to say and how important that testimony was.

17 In making the decision, I suggest that you ask  
18 yourself a few questions. Did the witness impress you as  
19 honest? Did the witness have any particular reason not to tell  
20 the truth? Did the witness have a personal interest in the  
21 outcome of the case? Did the witness have any relationship  
22 with either the Government or the defense? Did the witness  
23 seem to have a good memory? Did the witness clearly see or  
24 hear the things about which he or she testified? Did the  
25 witness have an opportunity and ability to understand the

1       questions clearly and answer them directly? Did the witness's  
2       testimony differ from the witness's of other -- testimony of  
3       other witnesses? These are just a few of the considerations  
4       that might help you in determining the accuracy.

5           Your job is to think about the testimony of each  
6       witness you have heard and decide how much you believe of what  
7       that witness had to say. In making up your mind and in  
8       reaching a verdict, do not make any decisions simply because  
9       there were more witnesses on one side than on the other side.  
10       Do not reach a conclusion on a particular point just because  
11       there were more witnesses testifying about that point. You  
12       will always keep -- always bear in mind that the law never  
13       imposes upon the defendant in a criminal case the burden or  
14       duty of calling any witnesses or producing any evidence.

15           You are here to decide whether the Government has  
16       proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendants are guilty  
17       of the charge -- of the crimes charged. The defendants are not  
18       on trial for any act, conduct, or offense not alleged in the  
19       indictment. Neither are you called upon to return a verdict as  
20       to the guilt of any other person or persons not on trial as  
21       defendants in this case.

22           The defendants have an absolute right not to testify.  
23       The fact that the defendants did not testify cannot be  
24       considered by you in any way or even discussed in your  
25       deliberations.

1 I remind you that it is up to the Government to prove  
2 each defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. It is not up  
3 to the defendants to prove their innocence.

4 A separate crime is charged against each of the  
5 defendants in each count of the indictment. Each count and the  
6 evidence pertaining to it should be considered separately. The  
7 case of each defendant should be considered separately and  
8 individually. The fact that you may find one or more of the  
9 accused guilty or not guilty of any of the crimes charged  
10 should not control your verdict as to any other crime or any  
11 other defendant. You must give separate consideration to the  
12 evidence to each defendant.

13 In any criminal case, the Government must prove not  
14 only the essential elements of the offense or offenses charged  
15 but must also prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, the identity of  
16 the defendants as the perpetrators of the alleged offense. In  
17 evaluating the identification testimony of a witness, you  
18 should consider all of the factors already mentioned concerning  
19 your assessment of the credibility of each witness in general,  
20 and you should also consider whether the witness had an  
21 adequate opportunity to observe the person in question at the  
22 time or times upon which the witness testified.

23 You may consider all matters, including the length of  
24 time the witness had to observe the person in question, the  
25 prevailing conditions at the time in terms of visibility or

1 distance and the like, and whether the witness had known or  
2 observed the person in earlier times. You may also consider  
3 the circumstances surrounding the identification itself,  
4 including, for example, the manner in which the defendants were  
5 presented to the witness for identification and the length of  
6 time that lapsed between the incident in question and the next  
7 opportunity the witness had to observe the defendants.

8 If, after examining all of the testimony and evidence  
9 in the case, you have a reasonable doubt as to the identity of  
10 the defendants as the perpetrators of the offense charged, you  
11 must find the defendants not guilty.

12 The indictment charges the defendants with robbery of  
13 a person having lawful charge, custody, or control of any mail  
14 matter or money and, in doing so, putting that person's life in  
15 jeopardy by use of a dangerous weapon. In order for you to  
16 find the defendants guilty of this charge, the Government must  
17 prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

18 Number one, the defendants took mail matter, money, or  
19 property of the United States from the person or presence of  
20 Sylvester Cobbs, having lawful charge, custody, or control of  
21 such property; number two, the defendants took such property by  
22 means of force and violence or by means of intimidation; and,  
23 number three, the defendants put the life of Sylvester Cobbs in  
24 jeopardy by using the dangerous weapon.

25 If you find from your consideration of all of the

1 evidence that the Government has proved each of these elements  
2 beyond a reasonable doubt, then you should find the defendants  
3 guilty of that charge.

4 If, on the other hand, you find from your  
5 consideration of all of the evidence that the Government has  
6 failed to prove any one of these elements beyond a reasonable  
7 doubt, then you should find the defendants not guilty of the  
8 charge.

9 Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, makes it a  
10 crime for two or more persons to conspire to commit an offense  
11 against the laws of the United States.

12 The defendants are charged with conspiring to rob a  
13 person having lawful charge, control, or custody of any mail  
14 matter or money by use of a dangerous weapon.

15 A conspiracy is an agreement between two or more  
16 persons to join together to accomplish some unlawful purpose.  
17 It is kind of a "partnership in crime" in which each member of  
18 the conspiracy becomes the agent of every other member.

19 For you to find the defendants guilty of this crime,  
20 you must be convinced that the Government has proved each of  
21 the following beyond a reasonable doubt: Number one, that a  
22 defendant and at least one other person agreed to commit the  
23 robbery of a person having lawful charge, custody, or control  
24 of any mail matter or money by use of a dangerous weapon, as  
25 it's charged in the indictment; and, number two, that the

1 defendants knew the unlawful purpose of the agreement and  
2 joined in it willfully, that is, with intent to further the  
3 unlawful purpose; and, number three, that at least one of the  
4 conspirators during the evidence -- existence of the conspiracy  
5 knowingly committed at least one of the overt acts described in  
6 the indictment in order to accomplish such object or purpose of  
7 the conspiracy.

8                   The overt act need not be of a criminal nature as long  
9 as it is done in furtherance of the conspiracy.

10                  One may become a member of a conspiracy without  
11 knowing all of the details of the unlawful scheme or the  
12 identities of all of the other alleged conspirators. If a  
13 particular defendant understands the unlawful nature of a plan  
14 or scheme and knowingly and intentionally joins in that plan or  
15 scheme on one occasion, that is sufficient to convict them for  
16 conspiracy even though that particular defendant had not  
17 participated before or even after through the particular  
18 defendant -- though the defendant -- let me reread that,  
19 please -- even though the particular defendant had not  
20 participated before and even though that particular defendant  
21 played only a minor part.

22                  The Government does not need to prove that the alleged  
23 conspirators entered into any formal agreement or that they  
24 directly stated between themselves all of the details of the  
25 scheme. Likewise, the Government does not need to prove that

1 all of the details of the scheme alleged in the indictment were  
2 actually agreed upon or carried out, nor must it prove that all  
3 of the persons alleged to have been members of the conspiracy  
4 were such or that the alleged conspirators actually succeeded  
5 in accomplishing their unlawful objectives.

6 Mere presence at the scene of an event, even with  
7 knowledge that a crime is being committed, or the mere fact  
8 that certain persons may have associated with each other and  
9 may have assembled together and discussed common aims and  
10 interests does not necessarily establish proof of the existence  
11 of a conspiracy. Also, a person who has no knowledge of a  
12 conspiracy but who happens to act in a way which advances some  
13 purposes of the conspiracy does not thereby become a  
14 coconspirator.

15 The guilt of any defendant in a criminal case may be  
16 established without proof that the defendant personally did  
17 every act constituting the alleged offense. The act -- the law  
18 recognizes that ordinarily anything a person can do for himself  
19 may also be accomplished by him through the direction of  
20 another person as his agent or by acting in concert with or  
21 under the direction of another person or persons in a joint  
22 effort or enterprise.

23 If another person is acting under the direction of a  
24 defendant or if a defendant joins another person and performs  
25 acts with the intent to commit a crime, then the law holds that

1 defendant responsible for the acts and conduct of each -- of  
2 such other persons just as though the defendants had committed  
3 the acts or engaged in such conduct.

4 Before any defendant may be held criminally  
5 responsible for the acts of others, it is necessary that the  
6 accused deliberately associate himself in some way with the  
7 crime and participate in it with the intent to bring about the  
8 crime.

9 Mere presence at the scene of a crime and knowledge  
10 that a crime is being committed are not sufficient to establish  
11 that the defendant either directed or aided and abetted the  
12 crime unless you find beyond a reasonable doubt that the  
13 defendants were participants and not merely a knowing  
14 spectator.

15 In other words, you may not find any defendant guilty  
16 unless you find beyond a reasonable doubt that every element of  
17 the offense as defined in these instructions was committed by  
18 some person or persons and that particular defendant  
19 voluntarily participated in its commission with the intent to  
20 violate the law.

21 For you to find any defendant guilty of this crime,  
22 you must be convinced that the Government has proved each of  
23 the following beyond a reasonable doubt: Number one, that the  
24 offense of robbery of a person having lawful charge, control,  
25 or custody of any mail matter or money by the use of a

1 dangerous weapon was committed by some person; that the  
2 defendant associated with the criminal venture; that the  
3 defendant purposefully participated in the criminal venture;  
4 and, fourth, that the defendant sought by action to make the  
5 venture successful.

6 "To associate with the criminal venture" means that  
7 the defendants shared the criminal intent of the principal.  
8 This element cannot be established if the defendants had no  
9 knowledge of the principal's criminal venture.

10 "To participate in the criminal venture" means that  
11 the defendants engaged in some affirmative action -- conduct  
12 designed to aid the venture or assist the principal of the  
13 crime.

14 The word "knowingly," as that term has been used from  
15 time to time in these instructions, means that the act was done  
16 voluntarily and intentionally, not by mistake or accident.

17 During the trial, you have heard the testimony of  
18 Christopher Moody, who expressed opinions concerning cell site  
19 and geolocation historical location services. If scientific,  
20 technical, or other specialized knowledge might assist the jury  
21 in understanding the evidence or in determining a fact in  
22 issue, a witness qualified by knowledge, skill, experience,  
23 training, or education may testify and state an opinion  
24 concerning such matters.

25 Merely because a witness has expressed an opinion does

1 not mean, however, that you must accept this opinion. You  
2 should judge such testimony like any other testimony. You may  
3 accept it or reject it and give it such weight -- or give it  
4 such weight as you think it deserves considering the witness's  
5 experience and education, the soundness of the reasons given  
6 for the opinion, and all other evidence in the case.

7 If the defendants are found guilty, it will be my duty  
8 to decide what the punishment should be. You should not be  
9 concerned about the punishment in any way. It should not enter  
10 your discussions or your deliberations.

11 To reach a verdict, whether guilty or not guilty, all  
12 of you must agree. Your verdict must be unanimous on each  
13 count of the indictment. Your deliberations will be in secret.  
14 You will never have to explain your verdict to anyone.

15 It is your duty to consult with one another and to  
16 deliberate in an effort to reach agreement if you can do so.  
17 Each of you must decide the case for yourself but only after an  
18 impartial consideration of the evidence with your fellow  
19 jurors. During your deliberations, do not hesitate to  
20 reexamine your own opinions and change your mind if convinced  
21 you were wrong. But do not give up your honest beliefs as to  
22 the weight or effect of the evidence solely because of the  
23 opinions of your fellow jurors or for the mere purpose of  
24 returning a verdict.

25 Remember at all times, you are judges -- judges of the

1       facts. Your duty is to decide whether the Government has  
2       proved the defendants guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

3           So when you go to the jury room, the first thing that  
4       you're going to do is decide among yourselves who will serve as  
5       the foreperson. That person will help you guide your  
6       deliberations and will speak for you, if necessary, here in the  
7       courtroom.

8           A verdict form has been prepared for your convenience.  
9       And for that matter, all of these instructions will go back  
10      with you; so you may read them -- reread them at your  
11      convenience.

12           The foreperson will write the unanimous answer of the  
13      jury in the space provided for each count of the indictment,  
14      whether guilty or not guilty. At the conclusion of your  
15      deliberations, the foreperson should date and sign the verdict.

16           If you need to communicate with me at anytime during  
17      your deliberations, the foreperson should write the message,  
18      give it to the court security officer. I'll either, one, reply  
19      in writing to you, or I will bring you back here in the  
20      courtroom to speak to your message.

21           Bear in mind that you are never to reveal to any  
22      person, not even this Court, how the jury stands numerically or  
23      otherwise on any count of the indictment until after you have  
24      reached a unanimous verdict.

25           I know you can't see the jury form from this distance

1       probably, but let me tell you it lays out for you each  
2       defendant and then each count. It's very easy to follow. So  
3       you're just going to simply take, for instance, Count 1 as to  
4       Mr. Smith and write guilty or not guilty, and then Count 2,  
5       guilty or not guilty. And you have a form for each of the  
6       defendants.

7               As I indicated, a copy of the indictment will be  
8       included in the instructions and will go back with you to the  
9       jury room.

10              So I'm going to allow them to start their closing  
11       statements. And just for the record, it's probably going to be  
12       about -- you know, it's 10:10. It's going to be about 10:15  
13       when they get started. These closing statements are a little  
14       lengthy. I'm not -- because they need to be. There's a lot of  
15       testimony in this case. It's going to take a while for them to  
16       summarize that for you.

17              I just want to let you know that, if you need to take  
18       a break during this time, raise your hand, let me know.  
19       Otherwise, just for continuity, I'm going to go through all of  
20       the closing statements this morning and try to complete them.  
21       But I don't want you to sit there uncomfortable if you do need  
22       to take a break.

23              I'm going to go ahead and speak to you just a moment  
24       about the exhibits that will go back with you. We will make  
25       arrangements for you to have access to any of the videos or any

1 of the documents -- all of the documents you'll have, but IT  
2 can assist you in the jury room, if necessary.

3 So I would invite you to listen very carefully now to  
4 the closing -- closing arguments.

5 Mr. Mims.

6 Because the Government has the burden in the case,  
7 what you're going to find procedurally here is we'll start with  
8 the Government. Then I'll call upon each of the defendants to  
9 make their closing, and then Mr. McGee for the Government will  
10 summarize and have the last word because the Government has the  
11 burden.

12 **MR. MIMS:** Good morning.

13 **JURORS:** Morning.

14 **MR. MIMS:** On February 5th, 2018, Gilbert McThunel,  
15 acting together with Jamarr Smith and Roko Ayodele, beat  
16 Sylvester Cobbs with a pistol and stole \$60,000 from the U.S.  
17 Postal Service.

18 Now, earlier this week when Mr. Lewis was making his  
19 opening statement, he made a comment to you that the Government  
20 cannot produce any real evidence in this case. Let's talk  
21 about the real evidence the Government has produced.

22 First, we have a video that shows the entire robbery.  
23 From that video, you can see that there are three people of  
24 interest that were actually at the scene committing this  
25 robbery. You have the assailant. You have the person driving

1 the white SUV who dropped off the assailant and later appeared  
2 to come back after the robbery to pick up the assailant. And  
3 you have the person driving the red Hyundai who followed the  
4 postal truck to the scene and hung around appearing to act as a  
5 lookout.

6 You have Google location information from the first  
7 search warrant, the geofence warrant, which places Gilbert  
8 McThunel and Jamarr Smith at the scene of the crime at the Lake  
9 Cormorant post office at the time of the robbery.

10 You have additional Google location information from  
11 the second Google search warrant, which shows an expanded view  
12 of McThunel's and Smith's location. And it shows them  
13 traveling from their homes in Batesville middle of the  
14 afternoon, up the interstate, and across from Hernando over to  
15 Lake Cormorant, hanging out in the Lake Cormorant/Robinsonville  
16 area for a couple of hours before and during the time of the  
17 robbery, and then returning back to Batesville after the  
18 robbery.

19 You have cell tower location data separate from Google  
20 location data on both McThunel and Smith that corroborates what  
21 you see from the Google location information. You can follow  
22 the cell towers and see them traveling up the interstate,  
23 across to Lake Cormorant, and back to Batesville.

24 You have additional cell tower location data on Roko  
25 Ayodele's phone. It shows the same thing you see with

1       McThunel's and Smith's phones, and that is traveling from  
2 Batesville, up the interstate, across to Lake Cormorant, and  
3 back.

4           We have evidence that all of these defendants are  
5 connected to each other. In fact, I think -- at some point  
6 during the questioning of some of the witnesses, I think  
7 defense counsel admitted these guys are all friends. But you  
8 know from the evidence -- we have Facebook evidence connecting  
9 Jamarr Smith and Roko Ayodele. We also have the evidence from  
10 the Kirk Auto Company records where Mr. McThunel traded in his  
11 car, his red Hyundai, three days after this, and he lists on  
12 there Roko Ayodele as one of his references, as a friend. So  
13 you have the defendants connected to each other.

14           You have multiple phone calls between the defendants  
15 on the day of the robbery -- before the robbery, during the  
16 robbery, afterwards. When I say multiple, it's an abnormal  
17 amount of phone calls. There are literally dozens of phone  
18 calls.

19           You've got phone calls between Jamarr Smith and Roko  
20 Ayodele. You have phone calls between Jamarr Smith and Gilbert  
21 McThunel. You have phone calls between Jamarr Smith and  
22 Chevelia Hines. And we'll get to her later. And you have a  
23 few phone calls between McThunel and Ayodele. Only a few  
24 because they were riding together in the white SUV. No point  
25 in them calling each other.

1                   We have the white SUV that we see in the video, and  
2 we've connected that to Roko Ayodele. It's very clear that he  
3 had a white SUV that looks identical to the one we see in the  
4 video. You have the red Hyundai in the video, and we have that  
5 connected to Gilbert McThunel. You have an eyewitness, Forest  
6 Coffman, who places Jamarr Smith at the scene of the robbery in  
7 the red Hyundai at the time of the robbery.

8                   We have the fact that Gilbert McThunel traded in his  
9 red Hyundai three days after this robbery. Three days after.  
10 Why trade in the Hyundai? Because that's the vehicle that an  
11 eyewitness saw and spoke to someone at the scene of the crime.

12                   They're not thinking they need to trade in the white  
13 SUV because they don't realize that we know the white SUV is  
14 there. They don't realize we have the security camera video.  
15 But they know Forest Coffman spoke to Smith in the red Hyundai.  
16 So, naturally, one of the defendants is wanting to get rid of  
17 part of the evidence, part of the tools of the crime.

18                   You also have the fact that on that day he spent  
19 \$3,000 cash on trading in for his new used car. You also have  
20 the fact that Jamarr Smith opened his business Twin's Shift  
21 Shop literally a month after this robbery.

22                   If any of you have ever opened up a business before,  
23 you know it takes money to open up a new business. You've got  
24 to pay rent. You've got to buy equipment. You have bills and  
25 expenses coming in long before the money starts coming in.

1       \$60,000 or 20,000, being a third of the money taken, would be a  
2 nice start to opening a new business.

3           You have Patra Malone, who testified yesterday that  
4 she knows Roko Ayodele. If you look at the phone records, we  
5 see that there were text messages between Ms. Malone and  
6 Mr. Ayodele right about the time of the robbery. And I believe  
7 what she said was, if she ever was texting with Mr. Ayodele,  
8 the number she knew to be his in her phone, it was him she was  
9 texting. She wasn't texting anybody else. She wasn't texting  
10 Little Bo. Doesn't even know Little Bo. She's texting  
11 Ayodele.

12           And, finally, you have Chevella Hines. Chevella Hines  
13 had some sort of relationship with Jamarr Smith at that time.  
14 Chevella Hines is the postmaster at Robinsonville. Chevella  
15 Hines knows the postal procedures. She knows what the post  
16 office does with the money they collect. She knows how much  
17 money they collect. And it's a surprising amount. She knows  
18 Sylvester Cobbs's route and when he runs that route. She knows  
19 that the money is put in the registered mailbags.

20           This is information that's not known to the general  
21 public and isn't even known to all of the postal employees.  
22 Only the people who need to know, only the people that handle  
23 the money or the postmasters are the ones that know the money  
24 is in the registered mailbags.

25           And what did the assailant take when he robbed the

1 truck? He didn't take the regular mail. He didn't take the  
2 wallet from Mr. Cobbs. He took only the registered mailbags  
3 because he knew that's where the money was. And you have  
4 Chevella Hines tied in with Jamarr Smith and multiple phone  
5 calls between them on the day of and particularly right after  
6 the robbery.

7 That is real evidence. It's real evidence. Now, some  
8 of that evidence is circumstantial. Some of it is direct  
9 evidence. But as you can see from the Court's instructions,  
10 direct -- you should not be concerned about whether evidence is  
11 direct or circumstantial. Consider and weigh all of the  
12 evidence because the law makes no distinction between the  
13 weight to be given either direct or circumstantial evidence.

14 Ladies and gentlemen, I often say that trying a case  
15 is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. I occasionally work  
16 a jigsaw puzzle. If I do, I normally -- when I get started, I  
17 separate the edges and the corners, put them over here. Then I  
18 look at my picture.

19 If I've got a picture that has something large and red  
20 in it, all of the pieces with red I put in a pile together. If  
21 I've got a blue sky, I take all of the pieces with a blue sky  
22 and put them together and try to separate them into piles.  
23 Now, I can't take all of the red pieces and put them together  
24 and complete the puzzle. That's just a small part of it. But  
25 when you take the red pieces and the blue pieces and the edges

1 and you put them all together, you get the complete picture.

2 Trying a case is the same thing.

3 For example, the phone records by themselves don't  
4 prove the defendant is guilty of a crime. But when you combine  
5 the phone records and the Google location information and the  
6 cell tower data and the phone calls -- I think I already said  
7 phone calls -- the links to the various vehicles, the  
8 eyewitness testimony putting Jamarr Smith at the scene, and the  
9 other evidence, when you put it all together, you get a clear  
10 picture of what happened.

11 Now, one other thing that Mr. Lewis told you in  
12 opening statement the other day is he made the comment that  
13 this is the first case in the country to ever be tried with  
14 Google location information. I'm not sure if that's true or  
15 not. Maybe it is. Maybe it isn't. I agree that in 2018  
16 geofence warrants were kind of a newfangled tool, a new device  
17 that police could use to help solve a crime.

18 Mr. Lewis made a comment, though, that Google location  
19 information is not very precise. I take the exact opposite  
20 view. I think it's very precise.

21 We all think about Google Maps. I've got Google Maps  
22 on my phone. If I have location services turned on and I'm in  
23 a strange place, when I hit Google Maps, in a couple of seconds  
24 a little blue dot comes up there and shows me exactly where I  
25 am.

1                   If I walk out this courthouse door right now and open  
2 up Google Maps, in a couple of seconds it's going to show me  
3 I'm at the intersection of Jackson Avenue and -- I believe this  
4 is Ninth Street, and it's going to pinpoint exactly where I am.  
5 If I'm not familiar with Oxford and I'm trying to figure out  
6 where do I want to go eat lunch today, I can look and see  
7 exactly where all of the restaurants are around me.

8                   I don't ever use -- rarely ever use these apps that  
9 give you directions someplace because, frankly, I'm a dinosaur.  
10 I'm one that wants to get out a map and plot my route before I  
11 go. But I've traveled before with people that are using these  
12 apps, and these apps are so precise. They don't just tell you  
13 go down the road and exit on Oak Street. They literally say,  
14 in 500 feet, turn right. In one mile, take a left at the  
15 light. It is very, very precise.

16                   In fact, in his opening statement, Chiniche told you  
17 that he was concerned that you might convict his client because  
18 Google location information puts him in the box, puts him  
19 inside that geofence box at the post office at the time of the  
20 robbery. Of course, he's concerned about it because he knows  
21 just how precise this Google location information is.

22                   So I'm going to take a closer look at the evidence for  
23 a few minutes, but before I do, I want to digress for a second.  
24 I love magic. I've been to two or three big magic shows, and  
25 occasionally I see some magic shows on TV, and I like to watch

1 them.

2 If you've ever watched a magic show, you'll see that  
3 the magician -- he's always trying to get you focused over here  
4 (indicating) on what he's doing with his left hand. He wants  
5 to distract your attention and get you looking at something  
6 over here that's irrelevant. It's not important. But he wants  
7 you to focus on this (indicating) so you don't see what he's  
8 doing with his right hand.

9 Defense attorneys in trials are often like magicians,  
10 in that they want to get you focused on something that's not  
11 important, not relevant, because they don't want you to focus  
12 on the evidence. For example, in this case -- in this case,  
13 you may hear from defense counsel about the Google geofence,  
14 and why didn't it pick up Sylvester Cobbs? And why didn't it  
15 pick up Rico Ayodele? Why didn't it pick up Forest Coffman?  
16 Why didn't it pick up the occasional car that we see briefly  
17 driving through the scene?

18 There's a number of reasons why it might not. For  
19 one, you've heard that, unless you have location services on,  
20 it's not going to pick up your location. And, apparently,  
21 there's many, many people that don't ever turn on location  
22 services.

23 Or you can see -- from the records in G-4 where we  
24 have all of the location information on McThunel and Smith, you  
25 can see that while Google is frequently checking your location,

1 it's not literally marking your location every single second.  
2 It's every two or three minutes. So if you're just a car  
3 passing through, unless Google is checking location at that  
4 precise moment that you pass through the box, it's not going to  
5 pick you up.

6 But, more importantly, that's one of those  
7 distractions. They want you focusing and asking questions  
8 about why didn't the geofence pick up other people so you're  
9 not focused on the important thing, which is the fact that the  
10 geofence picked up Gilbert McThunel and Jamarr Smith.

11 Now, when we got the information -- the first  
12 information back -- this is step one of the geofence, and it  
13 shows three devices. It shows the device that -- number 479  
14 that only hit at 5:58 p.m. That's almost 30 minutes after the  
15 robbery. The devices of real interest is Gilbert McThunel's  
16 device, which hit, I believe, seven times between 5:22 and  
17 5:30, and Jamarr Smith's device that hit three times between  
18 5:22 and 5:25.

19 But that's just the start of the case. That  
20 identified potential suspects. Up till that time, the  
21 Government couldn't identify who was in that video, but that  
22 gives us names to start looking and start now trying to see can  
23 we corroborate that, can we prove that those guys actually were  
24 involved in the crime. We've got them at the scene. We've got  
25 them at the scene for an extended period during the time of the

1 robbery.

2           But what else can we do to put that together? We've  
3 got phone records. We've got quite a bit of phone records.  
4 All of the phone records are on the wallet drives, but to make  
5 it a little easier for you to read in the jury room, we have  
6 pulled excerpts, and we've highlighted in the excerpts all of  
7 the phone calls between -- between the defendants here and  
8 other interested parties.

9           I'm not going to focus on all of these this morning.  
10 I don't have time to go through all of that. But I would just  
11 note -- this is from Exhibit G-6A. These are Gilbert  
12 McThunel's phone records. And if you look -- and keep in mind,  
13 on the C Spire records, they're in straight military time. On  
14 the T-Mobile and AT&T records, they're in UTC time; so you  
15 first have to subtract six hours and then convert the military  
16 time to civilian time.

17           On Gilbert McThunel's records, we see at 5:16 p.m. --  
18 right about the time -- right before this robbery begins, we  
19 have a phone call from Jamarr Smith's number to Gilbert  
20 McThunel's number, and it lasts 350 seconds. And you can see  
21 the tower it's pinging off is the Lake Cormorant tower.

22           Now, I don't know what was said during that phone  
23 call, but I would suggest to you -- you know Jamarr Smith is  
24 following the truck to the location. He's calling Gilbert  
25 McThunel saying, "Hey, get ready. He's coming. He's on his

1 way. Are you there? Are you in place?"

2 And then at 5:30 p.m., you have a call from McThunel  
3 and Ayodele that lasts 245 seconds. That's approximately four  
4 minutes. I suspect then he was calling Ayodele, the guy that  
5 dropped him off in the white SUV saying, "Hey. Hey, man.  
6 Where are you? Come get me."

7 Because you remember from the video, after the robbery  
8 occurred and Mr. Cobbs pulls around to the front, the assailant  
9 is running around the back not knowing what to do, and his  
10 ride's not back. And then there's the train over here. His  
11 ride is somewhere across the tracks. Maybe Mr. Ayodele just  
12 got too far away or maybe he got slowed down by the train and  
13 couldn't get back, but there's a phone call to McThunel and  
14 Ayodele probably asking for him to come get him.

15 Then we have the phone records in evidence as G-5A.  
16 The full set is on G-5. I'm going to try to hit these very  
17 briefly. These are the T-Mobile records. And not only do they  
18 have the specific latitude and longitude of the towers, but  
19 they actually have the names of the towers over here on the  
20 side.

21 And if you look at the records, Jamarr Smith travels  
22 around noon that day up to the Robinsonville/Tunica area. Then  
23 he comes back, and he's in Batesville by about 1:45. And  
24 between 2:54 and 3:07 p.m., there's three phone calls between  
25 Mr. Smith and Mr. Ayodele. They're still pinging off the tower

1 in Batesville. I suspect at that time Smith's calling Ayodele  
2 saying, "Hey, man. You about ready? Is McThunel with you?  
3 Let's go."

4 Shortly after that, if you look over here in the right  
5 column, you can see his phone leaves and goes to Sardis,  
6 Hernando, Nesbit, Robinsonville, Lake Cormorant. And for a  
7 period of time between 4:17 and 5:49 p.m., Mr. Smith's phone is  
8 making multiple calls pinging off the towers in either  
9 Tunica -- I'm sorry -- in either Robinsonville or Lake  
10 Cormorant with one time when it hits the tower in Tunica, all  
11 while making calls with Ayodele and McThunel and Hines. And  
12 then you can literally follow his phone back to Batesville  
13 afterwards, going from Crenshaw to Senatobia, and arriving back  
14 to Batesville at approximately 6:21 p.m.

15 You heard from Chris Moody, the expert witness who  
16 works in the technical services unit of the postal service. He  
17 has plotted all of this information on a map for you. And it's  
18 really not that complicated. There are programs that if you  
19 take this information from Google and from the phone companies  
20 and put it in this program, it will plot all of the points on  
21 the map.

22 And what you see -- you see several things. You see,  
23 first of all, from the geofence location, Jamarr Smith. It put  
24 him at the scene three times between -- I believe it was 5:22  
25 and 5:25. And where's he at? He's right here in front of the



1 Cormorant, maybe you might have an argument. Hey, maybe that  
2 was the one time when other towers were down and there was a  
3 football game going on and the closest available tower was an  
4 hour from home. We have dozens, dozens, dozens of phone calls.  
5 Do you really believe that on all of those dozens of calls it's  
6 just picking out some random tower far away from the phone?

7 We're not relying on one phone call or one location  
8 from Google. It's dozens of phone calls. It's dozens, if not  
9 hundreds, of Google location points for both McThunel and  
10 Smith, which I believe clearly shows that these phones traveled  
11 from Batesville to Lake Cormorant and back.

12 Now, let's talk about Sylvester Cobbs for a minute.  
13 You heard his testimony. He was struck with a weapon multiple  
14 times, left a scar on his face. He testified that he was  
15 threatened by the assailant. Said that the assailant first  
16 said -- threatened to shoot him. Later, when they were  
17 struggling, said, "I ought to just kill you."

18 When Mr. Chiniche was cross-examining Stephen Mathews  
19 a couple of days (sic), he suggested that perhaps Sylvester  
20 Cobbs was involved in this. You've heard the 911 call. It's  
21 in evidence as G-8. I don't have time to play it for you this  
22 morning, but I would encourage you to play G-8 again when  
23 you're in the jury room. Listen to Mr. Cobbs on that 911 call  
24 made shortly after the robbery.

25 He describes in great detail how the man attacked him

1 with a gun. Said the gun ended up on the ground. He thought  
2 maybe he could get to it, but he couldn't. The assailant got  
3 to it, continued to beat him.

4 You can see in the video -- looks like the assailant  
5 is pointing a gun at him. You can't see the gun, but you can  
6 see him doing this (indicating) while Cobbs is on the ground.  
7 You heard the shakiness of his voice on that 911 call. Does he  
8 sound like somebody that was involved in this crime?

9 You also heard from Forest Coffman. Forest Coffman  
10 has nothing to gain from being here. He testified that on the  
11 day of the robbery he had been walking back and forth from his  
12 uncle's shop behind his trailer right there across the street  
13 from the post office. He sees a red car. It's not familiar to  
14 him. It's a small rural community. You recognize everybody's  
15 car and know everybody's car around there.

16 He doesn't recognize it, and he's acting funny, and he  
17 goes up and approaches the gentleman. He says, "Hey, can I  
18 help you? What's going on?" Of course, he doesn't know who  
19 that guy is. It's a stranger from Batesville, as it turns out.  
20 He doesn't know who he is.

21 It took a while for the postal service to identify  
22 potential suspects. So when they did, they came back to  
23 Mr. Coffman 17 months later and showed him three photo lineups  
24 and asked him, "Can you identify anybody? You don't have to  
25 circle anybody at all, but do you see anybody in these

1 pictures?" Forest Coffman circled Jamarr Smith.

2 Now, you may hear from the defendants that was  
3 17 months later. How can you remember something 17 months  
4 later? That's -- that's impossible. I would argue just the  
5 opposite. If 17 months later you can look at 18 strangers in a  
6 photo lineup and pick one specifically and it be the one, I'd  
7 say it's very good memory.

8 **COURTROOM DEPUTY:** Five minutes.

9 **MR. MIMS:** Let's talk about jury instructions for just  
10 a minute.

11 Tracy, how am I doing on time? Five-minute warning?

12 **COURTROOM DEPUTY:** Uh-huh.

13 **MR. MIMS:** Thank you.

14 Let's talk about jury instructions for just a minute.  
15 One of the first instructions I want to look at, where the  
16 Court tells you you are only concerned with the guilt of these  
17 three gentlemen on trial here today. You're not concerned with  
18 the guilt of anybody else not on trial. As my friend Bob  
19 Norman reminded me this morning, we fry one fish at a time or,  
20 in this case, maybe three fish at a time.

21 You may hear from them about other potential people  
22 that may have been involved. And I don't dispute that there  
23 may have been other people involved. In fact, if you look at  
24 our indictment, in the very first paragraph, we state that  
25 Smith, Ayodele, and McThunel conspired with each other and

1 other persons known and unknown to the grand jury to commit  
2 this crime. There may have been others involved, but today  
3 we're concerned about whether these three defendants were  
4 involved or not. Are they guilty or not?

5 Another instruction I want to look at -- it's always  
6 one of my favorite instructions. It says, "In considering the  
7 evidence, you are permitted to draw such reasonable inferences  
8 from the testimony and exhibits as you feel are justified in  
9 the light of common experience." In other words, use reason  
10 and common sense.

11 Let's think about that for a minute. One of the  
12 arguments you're going to hear from the defendants is, hey, the  
13 devices may have been in Lake Cormorant, but that doesn't mean  
14 the defendants were in Lake Cormorant. That defies all logic.  
15 Everybody in this room has a cell phone. Some people may have  
16 more than one cell phone. We always keep our cell phones with  
17 us all of the time.

18 When I leave the house in the morning, my phone is  
19 with me until I get back to the house that night. And when I  
20 walk in the door, usually I sit my phone down on the desk by  
21 the back door where I come in. And so I may be down the hall  
22 and not near my phone, but the phone is at home with me. It's  
23 not off somewhere else.

24 And, yes, every once in a blue moon, I've left in the  
25 morning and left my phone sitting on the desk and had to go

1 back and get it, or I've left work at lunch and realize when I  
2 get home, oh, I left my phone at the office. But my phone  
3 doesn't go out and get in somebody else's car and drive off an  
4 hour from home. Really, my phone doesn't get out -- doesn't  
5 walk out and get in my own car and go an hour from home and I'm  
6 not there. That defies common sense.

7 And if you think about the argument the defendants are  
8 making in this case, that somehow they lost their phone or left  
9 their phone in their car, it's almost impossible to believe  
10 that that would happen for one person, but in this case, if you  
11 follow that, they're saying that all three people -- three of  
12 them all left their phones -- lost their phones on the same  
13 day; that their phones just grew legs and walked out and hopped  
14 in their own cars and drove off an hour away with three  
15 completely different people, three people who knew each other  
16 and were calling each other constantly during the time of the  
17 crime, three people who apparently had a connection maybe to  
18 Chevella Hines to know how to pull this off. It just defies  
19 common sense that that would happen.

20 Also, a couple of other things just on the topic of  
21 common sense. We've already talked about the fact that phones  
22 generally connect to the closest tower. You can -- we know  
23 that -- that's the case. You've heard the testimony from the  
24 phone reps. We know that to be true. You can literally watch  
25 the towers and see where people travel.

1                   And the tower information is confirmed by Google  
2 location information, which is completely separate. You even  
3 heard from -- I believe Mr. Lewis acknowledged this, and the  
4 expert, Chris Moody, said the same thing. The Google location  
5 data is even more accurate.

6                   I want to touch briefly on the -- on the charges and  
7 the elements to prove them. We have two counts in the  
8 indictment. We have a substantive count, and we have the  
9 conspiracy count. The substantive count is Number 2, and  
10 that's just the one -- that's just the one that says these  
11 defendants committed this robbery. Keep in mind that you don't  
12 have to be the person holding the gun to commit the crime. If  
13 you assist, that's called aiding and abetting, and you're also  
14 just as guilty of the crime.

15                  The Government would have to prove the defendants took  
16 money belonging to the United States that was in Cobbs's lawful  
17 custody; the defendants took the property by means of force and  
18 violence or intimidation; and the defendants put his life in  
19 danger -- Cobbs's life in danger by the use of a dangerous  
20 weapon. I believe the Government has proven all of that.

21                  Again, I would just encourage you to remember that  
22 whether it's aiding and abetting or conspiracy -- by the way,  
23 on conspiracy, one of the things the Government has to prove is  
24 one of the substantive counts. These are listed as A, B, and C  
25 at the bottom of Count 1. We don't have to prove each and

1 every one of those. If we prove any one of those substantive  
2 counts, you can convict on the conspiracy, but I would assert  
3 to you we've proven all three beyond a reasonable doubt.

4 The important thing about aiding and abetting in a  
5 conspiracy, again, is you don't have to hold the gun to be  
6 guilty. If you drive the drop-off or getaway car or if you  
7 drive the lookout car, you're guilty. You're just as guilty as  
8 the man who beat Sylvester Cobbs with the gun.

9 Ladies and gentlemen, I've taken up enough of your  
10 time this morning. I would just ask you to -- when you return  
11 to the jury room, don't get in a rush. This is an important  
12 case, and there's a lot of evidence to go through. I would  
13 encourage you to watch the video, listen to the 911 calls, look  
14 over the animated maps in G-25 from Chris Moody, look over the  
15 phone records with voluminous phone calls back and forth  
16 between the defendants at the time of the robbery and also  
17 showing the location of the cell towers, and return a verdict  
18 of guilty on both counts for each defendant.

19 Thank you.

20 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Mr. Mims.

21 Mr. Chiniche.

22 **MR. CHINICHE:** Yes, Your Honor.

23 **MR. MIMS:** Your Honor, if I may for just one second.  
24 I've got some exhibits. I need to put them back up here in  
25 case they need them, and I'm a little disorganized.

1                   **THE COURT:** Okay.

2                   **MR. MIMS:** Thank you, Your Honor.

3                   **THE COURT:** Thank you.

4                   **MR. CHINICHE:** May I begin?

5                   **THE COURT:** You may.

6                   **MR. CHINICHE:** May it please the Court. Opposing  
7 counsel.

8                   Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I disagree with  
9 Mr. Mims's puzzle analogy, put the pieces together and it gives  
10 you a full picture. I like to say they take a square peg and  
11 hammered it into a circle.

12                  I recently had a bad experience with Google Map, such  
13 though that when my daughter wanted to drive to Memphis, I  
14 didn't want her to use Google Map because I -- I had a bad  
15 experience with it on the way to the beach.

16                  This case against Mr. McThunel is based on pure  
17 speculation. There's no witness that identified Mr. McThunel  
18 as the assailant. There's no prosecution witness that  
19 identified Mr. McThunel in this courtroom. The video doesn't  
20 show Mr. McThunel, Mr. Smith, or Mr. Ayodele. There's no car  
21 tag to identify that -- this sedan the Government says was  
22 Mr. McThunel's, there's no car tag to identify it to  
23 Mr. McThunel.

24                  Forest Coffman, the white gentleman from the Delta  
25 that lived at that intersection, he was interviewed on the day

1 of the robbery. He gave a lot of information about a driver,  
2 but he only told law enforcement it was a red car. He couldn't  
3 identify the tag. He couldn't identify if that car was from  
4 Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, or somewhere else.

5 There's also no motive for Mr. McThunel to commit this  
6 crime. No motive. I'll talk about that in a minute. There's  
7 no physical evidence or direct evidence linking Mr. McThunel to  
8 this crime.

9 You heard information about other suspects where  
10 Investigator Mathews either didn't follow up or didn't --  
11 didn't result in a case. Edwin T. Brown. We heard about him.  
12 We didn't see him, but we heard about him. Edwin T. Brown was  
13 so important to law enforcement they got his phone records, and  
14 they learned that he cancelled his cell phone on the day of  
15 this crime.

16 Remember Edwin T. Brown? He's the one that had a  
17 serious felon -- serious criminal record. He's a convicted  
18 felon with an armed robbery charge of a grocery store, meaning  
19 he went into a grocery store with a firearm.

20 We have Chevella Hines. We heard about her. We  
21 didn't see her. She also cancelled her cell phone on the day  
22 of the crime. Government's Exhibit Number 9 shows you that.  
23 Got G-9C. This is the -- this is the phone that belongs to  
24 Chevella Hines. It's her phone number that was in some of the  
25 records. Mobile deactivation date, 2/5/2018, the day of this

1       crime. When was it terminated? 2/5/2018.

2           Chevella Hines was the postmaster at the Robinsonville  
3 post office. She's also the supervisor of the Lake Cormorant  
4 post office that -- Inspector Mathews told us that, so did  
5 Mr. Cobbs, the -- the driver. Chevella Hines knew the route,  
6 the time, and she's the one that knows about this registered  
7 mail.

8           You also heard the name -- I asked Inspector Mathews  
9 about the employee Latorian Clark. I asked Mr. Mathews why he  
10 showed up in a law enforcement report because he's a gentleman  
11 that Chevella Hines let off that day, postal employee allowed  
12 to leave that day. No follow-up investigation. No information  
13 on him. But it was important enough to be in a law enforcement  
14 report.

15           Travonya Nash was a C Spire account holder. They  
16 subpoenaed C Spire records on 662-710-7511. The account holder  
17 was Travonya Nash. The C Spire employee that testified said  
18 that was not a prepaid account. That was an account -- an  
19 arrears account where you had to produce a photo ID, social  
20 security number, credit check.

21           Then Mr. Cobbs described a suspicious interaction he  
22 had with somebody in Robinsonville earlier that day. Somebody  
23 he thought was suspicious walked up to him -- it's before he's  
24 robbed -- asked him about how you apply for a job. I asked  
25 Inspector Mathews about that. Did you locate that gentleman?

1 He was in a tan two-toned vehicle. No information there.

2 Forest Coffman, the white gentleman that lived in the  
3 Delta at that intersection, when he was interviewed that day,  
4 he told DeSoto County Sheriff's Department he had a video, and  
5 they took that video. We didn't see it. I'd like to know what  
6 was on that video.

7 We have -- in the geofence, we have this -- three  
8 devices -- three accounts that were returned, one of which was  
9 ruled out by law enforcement.

10 Ladies and gentlemen, the timeline you heard --  
11 February 5th, 2018, was the date of the incident. That day  
12 Mr. Cobbs was interviewed, and Mr. Coffman was interviewed,  
13 Forest Coffman. That's the day that Mr. Coffman identified a  
14 red vehicle. We go a year later, February 2019. Inspector  
15 Mathews said no leads. Haven't solved the crime yet.

16 And then in May 2019, they learned about a new  
17 technique to law enforcement, something law enforcement was  
18 getting into. Let's send a subpoena, a search warrant to  
19 Google. Let's use their data. Let's draw a box around the  
20 crime scene, and let's get a warrant to see what kind of  
21 information they'll give us. Google calls that a geofence.

22 And remember it came back with three accounts, three  
23 results, I'll call it, two of which the Government said were  
24 Mr. Smith -- one was Mr. Smith, one was Mr. McThunel, and there  
25 was a third one they ruled out. They have to do further

1 investigations because all it does is give you the e-mail  
2 address. But that's where we had that permanentwavesrecords  
3 account that was not investigated.

4 So they keep digging. They've got a square peg.  
5 They've got to get it in this round hole. And in June and  
6 July 2019 -- what is that? 15 months later -- they get cell  
7 tower/cell phone information, and they start naming McThunel,  
8 Smith, and Ayodele.

9 So then federal -- the investigators go back to  
10 Mr. Coffman. Remember, this time he's living in Memphis, and  
11 they meet in some building in Memphis. This is in July 2019.  
12 Mr. Coffman sits down with an investigator who's working on the  
13 suspects, shows him a lineup -- three different lineups.

14 Two of those lineups Coffman doesn't pick out either  
15 of the defendants. Nobody. But it picked out one. This is 15  
16 months later. He picked out a guy that he had a 30-second  
17 interaction with. And he described Mr. Smith as having a red  
18 goatee while he's in an apartment -- in a Memphis building with  
19 an investigator. Mr. Smith doesn't have a red goatee.

20 And when Mr. Coffman was asked can you be 100 percent  
21 sure about picking that gentleman out of the lineup, he said,  
22 "I wouldn't say I was 100 percent sure. I was confident, but I  
23 wasn't 100 percent." And that would mean -- if that story is  
24 true, that would mean that Mr. Smith had to be driving the red  
25 car, who they say was my client's car.

1                   So we've got this new technology. We've got a  
2 geofence drawn with Google's data, obtained with Google's  
3 information, and it produces three results, two of which the  
4 Government says are relevant. We'll talk about how reliable  
5 that is later. You heard it during the trial. But there are  
6 other people in that geofence that weren't returned on the  
7 Google search warrant.

8                   Mr. Coffman -- Forest Coffman, who lived next door, he  
9 and his girlfriend -- I asked him, "Did you have an Android  
10 phone?" He did. You're probably wondering why. But that's  
11 why. Because if he had an Android phone, it should have shown  
12 up in the geofence. I asked him if he had a Gmail account. He  
13 did. He didn't show up in the geofence. I asked him if he had  
14 a girlfriend.

15                  I asked Mr. Cobbs, the victim, "Did you have a cell  
16 phone?" We know he did. He called 911 -- he called his wife,  
17 and then he called 911. "Did you have a Gmail account?" He  
18 did. He didn't show up.

19                  Look at -- if you feel like you need to, look at that  
20 video entirely. It's 33 minutes' long. Those are two  
21 individuals with Google accounts not showing up in the  
22 geofence. How reliable is that? We'll discuss that later.

23                  We had Mr. Moody testify through Zoom. Remember him?  
24 He's the Government's witness who testified about the  
25 geolocation, historical information. He didn't like us, and he

1 didn't like Mr. Lewis's questions. But even he had to admit  
2 that Google strives for its historical location data to be 68  
3 percent accurate.

4 Look at that video. You will see that -- you already  
5 know that Mr. Cobbs, the victim, Mr. Coffman were in that  
6 geofence, but there were other vehicles and other people in  
7 that geofence as well. It's a 33-minute video.

8 I'll submit to you that at the 4:10 mark, there's a  
9 dark SUV; at the 5:48 mark, there's a white SUV; at the 6:20  
10 mark, there's a dark sedan. Not the red one. I'd submit at  
11 9:40 -- that's when the mail truck shows up. At 10:30, that's  
12 when the red sedan shows up. At 10:20, we have another dark  
13 sedan. I submit that that looks like a Nissan Altima to me.

14 At 12:40, we have a white or a silver-colored sedan.  
15 At the 14:35 mark, we have a train that comes through. At the  
16 23:22 mark, there's a red pickup truck. You'll notice that red  
17 pickup truck because Mr. Cobbs backs his mail truck again back  
18 to the back of the video -- back of the post office.

19 24:25, we see a newer white SUV coming over the  
20 railroad tracks heading southbound, and then at 25:20, we see a  
21 dark crossover, I'll call it, because I can't tell if it's an  
22 SUV or a sedan -- a dark crossover pulls into the parking lot  
23 of the post office. And then, lastly, right before it ends,  
24 31:40, there's a white pickup truck that passes by. That's  
25 about 10 or 11 vehicles in addition to the two the Government's

1 focused on.

2                   Ladies and gentlemen, there is -- maybe you've heard  
3 of something called the power of suggestion. Power of  
4 suggestion is a psychological process where an individual is  
5 given an idea, and that idea then becomes that person's  
6 reality. The more that these investigators and these  
7 prosecutors look at that video, the more they want it to be a  
8 2013 Hyundai Sonata. The more you look at it, the more you  
9 want it to fit.

10                  Prosecution says the only reason McThunel sold that  
11 car was to get rid of it. Why can't there be other  
12 explanations? Why can't it be maybe there was a nationwide  
13 recall on the 2013 Hyundai Sonata engine? Why can't it be --  
14 excuse me, Your Honor. Why can't it be because it had  
15 133,000 miles on it? Why can't it be maybe it wasn't running  
16 right? Why can't it be maybe it had too many recent repairs?  
17 Why can't it be maybe he didn't want to drive it anymore? Why  
18 does he have to be a criminal? And why does the \$3,000 he put  
19 down have to come from a robbery? What if he had just won  
20 something at the casino with his buddies in Robinsonville?  
21 Mr. McThunel got a loan for the trade-in for the car?

22                  I went over this with the witness. He's got college  
23 experience. He's -- he listed his job. He listed how much  
24 money he makes monthly. He pays \$300 of rent living with  
25 relatives. He's got a bank account at BancorpSouth. He had

1 auto insurance with Allstate. He had a credit score. And he  
2 listed his pay stub. He's got no motive to commit a crime.

3 We have Government Exhibit 19. I want to show you  
4 this, and I don't want you to be confused. This is the red  
5 Hyundai. This is a snapshot from the video you'll notice from  
6 the green lines. This right here where my pen is (indicating),  
7 that's a stock photo. That's not Mr. McThunel's car.

8 Ladies and gentlemen, if you have questions that are  
9 unanswered about this case, that's called reasonable doubt.  
10 It's the prosecutor's job to answer those questions for you.

11 The judge read to you an instruction that I want to  
12 highlight. And it says, "If, after examining all of the  
13 testimony and evidence in this case, you have reasonable doubt  
14 as to the identity of the defendants as the perpetrators of the  
15 offense charged, you must find the defendants not guilty."  
16 That's what I'm asking you to do. Mr. McThunel is not guilty.

17 First day we were here we had the whole venire out  
18 there. I explained the three types of burden of proof. Two  
19 are in a civil case. One is in this case. Civil case, by a  
20 preponderance of the evidence, more likely true than not true.  
21 Not here. Another kind of civil case, fraud, clear and  
22 convincing. That's not even here. But beyond a reasonable  
23 doubt? I submit to you no.

24 Thank you, Your Honor.

25 **THE COURT:** Thank you. You still comfortable?

1 || Mr. Lewis.

2 MR. LEWIS: I'm going to let --

3                   **MR. TRAVIS:** I think I'm going to go before, Your  
4 Honor.

5 THE COURT: Excuse me. Thank you.

6 MR. TRAVIS: Thank you, Judge.

7 Thank you, Your Honor. May it please the Court.

8 THE COURT: Yes, you may proceed.

9 MR. TRAVIS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

10 JURORS: Good morning.

11 MR. TRAVIS: As you know, I represent Mr. Ayodele.  
12 Stand up again, please, sir.

13 (DEFENDANT COMPLTES )

14 MR. TRAVITS: Thank you very much.

I'll start at the back end of the presumption of  
innocence. You're going to hear it when I finish my remarks.  
Y'all all heard that in voir dire and what the Court has said.  
But as he stood there, he's presumed innocent. And every  
person on that wall, all of you, this judge, these reporters,  
these lawyers, young and older, these people in the audience --  
they all have the presumption of innocence. Put a lot of  
weight on that because you've got a lot of weight to lift when  
you get back there in that room. It's a heavy barbell, the  
presumption of innocence.

25 When the prosecutors -- who are also presumed

1 innocent. This fine agent is. These fine prosecutors. This  
2 lovely lady. But they want to say, based on circumstances and  
3 speculation in regards to Mr. Ayodele -- when I'm talking to  
4 you, I'm just talking about Mr. Ayodele. Okay? -- and they  
5 want to say that that's enough to convict him on this two-count  
6 indictment.

7 And I'm saying to you, ladies and gentlemen, that, as  
8 I said to you earlier in the week, I'm asking you for a verdict  
9 on behalf of Mr. Ayodele of not guilty. Not guilty. Not  
10 guilty. I'm saying to you that the prosecutors have not proven  
11 their circumstantial case to show you -- with the evidence that  
12 you've heard on Mr. Ayodele, they have not been able to show  
13 you proof, evidence, beyond a reasonable doubt. Okay? They  
14 haven't shown that. Circumstances are not enough with  
15 Mr. Ayodele. Not on this case.

16 I asked you when we picked you for this jury -- the  
17 judge first said we wanted to trust you. We trust you. You're  
18 on this jury. All of the lawyers, prosecutors, defense  
19 lawyers, we chose you. We trust you.

20 During my questioning on the voir dire when we were  
21 trying to decide who to put on the jury, we trusted you, and we  
22 chose you. And I asked you then -- you can recall -- at the  
23 end of this, at the end of the day, to trust yourself. I don't  
24 know if you recall, but I ask you all, all 12 of you now, to  
25 trust yourself. And I think I said to stand on your own two

1       feet, if you recall.

2                   Mr. Mims, the prosecution, has this circumstantial  
3 case, but as a mutual friend of ours, Honorable Bob Norman with  
4 the U.S. Attorney's Office -- Mr. Mims noted what Mr. Norman  
5 said. He's also said, "As you know, you never know,"  
6 quote/unquote. Honorable Bob Norman. "As you know, you never  
7 know."

8                   And if, at the end of this case, you just don't know  
9 beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Ayodele is in any fray here  
10 with anybody, then that is reasonable doubt, and you can  
11 honorably and -- walk as tall as any man or lady ever walked  
12 through those doors out and say, "It was a heavy lift, a lot of  
13 circumstances, but I vote not guilty for Mr. Ayodele," my  
14 client, whether he's friends with anybody.

15                  We do know from the evidence from former Agent  
16 Mathews, who testified truthfully -- on the stand, he played no  
17 games, but he's not able to give you enough on this case to  
18 prove beyond a reasonable doubt that my client is guilty of any  
19 wrongdoing whatsoever. When I say that, I'm not saying that he  
20 lied. It's not his fault that he doesn't have that. He did  
21 his job.

22                  He's been honest on everything, including this  
23 business about Mr. Ayodele's phone. Let's call it the 4000, if  
24 you'll stay with me on all of that. That's never been burned.  
25 Never destroyed the phone. And also that he had another

1       telephone, the 228 number -- find it in a minute. You're all  
2       aware that he testified that there were -- he had a second  
3       telephone. And I think Mr. Mims has told you that some people,  
4       many people, have more than one phone. I don't want one phone,  
5       but a lot of people have more than one phone.

6               The testimony of Mr. Mathews, again, no phones were  
7       ever cancelled. It's been proven into evidence that  
8       Mr. Ayodele has another phone number. At a minimum, it was  
9       228-223-7879. Do you recall seeing that in the exhibits? That  
10       phone does not show up on all of the videos, photographs, all  
11       of the technology that is about to rob our souls that shows  
12       these colored photographs so we can all watch television again  
13       and let our brain go dead -- showing that -- they want to say  
14       Ayodele and other named persons in here. That's a device, as  
15       Mr. Goodloe so well pointed out, in this case. That is not  
16       proof beyond a reasonable doubt that that is Mr. Ayodele.  
17       Okay?

18               I asked Mr. Mathews this, if I can read my own  
19       writing, about the white SUV. "Your evidence on the date of  
20       the crime of February 5th, 2018, does not, by video or any  
21       other form of identification, show Mr. Ayodele physically in a  
22       white SUV at the Lake Cormorant post office where Mr. Cobbs was  
23       assaulted?" He said, "No." That's Mr. Chiniche.

24               There's no video or photo showing him in a white SUV,  
25       whether it be his or anybody else's. Male or female in the

1 car -- we don't know -- in the truck? We don't know. We don't  
2 know. This agent didn't know and still does not know. These  
3 prosecutors do not know. That's not their fault. I'm not  
4 beating up on them. But they don't know. Several phones.

5 Let's talk about -- Mr. Mathews spoke to my client on  
6 two occasions. Mr. Ayodele was asked to talk to them, and he  
7 voluntarily did that on two occasions. He didn't have to do  
8 that. I hope y'all realize that.

9 But on October the 20th of 2019, the first time, he  
10 met with them, and that's when the information that he had  
11 multiple phones -- okay. Friends, fair enough. We all have  
12 friends. I'm sure all of you have friends. On that occasion,  
13 they asked him whether he was involved in any wrongdoing on  
14 February the 5th of 2018 at Lake Cormorant, and he denied that  
15 he had. That was his honest answer.

16 The December 19th meeting, which is all some months  
17 after the event of February 5th of 2018, again, he denied any  
18 involvement in any wrongdoing. He answered them.

19 On both occasions, he mentioned, as the prosecutor  
20 brought up, Little Bo. Two times in the October 2019, if I got  
21 that right, and December, Little Bo -- he told him that he  
22 sometimes loans his white SUV to Little Bo. I hope I made the  
23 point on cross from that stand that we all loan our vehicles  
24 from time to time.

25 It's not beyond comprehension, possibilities, that if

1 someone has more than one phone and they loan their vehicles to  
2 Little Bo from time to time -- we don't know if Little Bo  
3 should be sitting at that table. I don't know. They don't  
4 know. They don't know. But Little Bo has gone to that land  
5 from which no man ever returns -- I believe it was in May of  
6 2019 he passed away, with all due respect. We don't know  
7 anything about him, other than this agent -- this fine agent,  
8 former agent -- he didn't -- Little Bo is not made up. That  
9 was a person. That was a person.

10 Again, nobody here at my table with Mr. Ayodele has  
11 gotten rid of any phones or any vehicles, and he talked to  
12 these people two times. Two times. They asked him to talk,  
13 and he's talked to them two times.

14 I'm with Mr. Chiniche on the puzzle part because I  
15 know this is going to be work and a lot of heavy lifting, but I  
16 don't think, with the information that has come out on my  
17 client, talking about my client, that the puzzle fits perfectly  
18 for these prosecutors.

19 Again, Mr. Mims, some people have more than one phone.  
20 It defies common sense. It doesn't defy common sense. I'm  
21 asking you to use your common sense. Please use all of your  
22 life experiences when -- from the time you were able as a young  
23 person going through your teenage years, your younger years,  
24 when under whatever random circumstances it looked to you like  
25 you may had done something wrong, wrong place, wrong time.

1                   Look at your friends. Look at your future and  
2 somebody -- whether it's your daddy or your mama or the  
3 principal who's pointing their finger at you, you, you, or you  
4 and saying you did it, but you didn't do it. And if you've  
5 worked with a lot of people in your civilian careers, military  
6 careers, you know things like that happen. That is common  
7 sense. Common sense does not exclude it. It pulls it in. Use  
8 it all.

9                   The judge asked you to keep an open mind. And I am  
10 asking you on my client there to keep an open mind on these  
11 facts. Several phones. A phone. Again, they want you to  
12 watch these numbers and attach a device to a flesh and blood  
13 human being. That's not enough.

14                   With Mr. Ayodele, you know, there's no, that I heard  
15 of, influx of moneys or high-end purchases. Nothing. That's  
16 not his fault. That's not the agent's fault. I'm just saying  
17 I don't hear that. That would tell me something. Large amount  
18 of money, well, I -- again, nothing to show that my client is  
19 out there with moneys playing around.

20                   My heart goes out to Mr. Cobbs, but, again, nothing  
21 ever showed -- and nobody -- by anything other than this phone  
22 number -- although I respect the technology. I've learned a  
23 lot about it on this case. Trust me. I'm of that generation  
24 where I didn't grow up with it like a lot of people do.

25                   But I've -- many legal scholars will argue that

1 circumstantial evidence should never be sufficient to convict  
2 someone, but I don't know that I'm on that page. But when  
3 you've got openings in the proof like on Mr. Ayodele with  
4 multiple phones, no phones have been disposed of, no vehicles  
5 have been disposed of, not picked out from anybody on the  
6 scene, not on the video, that's when it comes in and weighs on  
7 you that this judge gave you it has to be proof beyond a  
8 reasonable doubt, that there is that presumption of innocence.

9 The prosecutors on a circumstantial case, to some  
10 degree, are shooting dice. Because with all due respect, they  
11 just don't know. That's not their fault. They're shooting  
12 dice. And they're wanting you -- there's been no lies here.  
13 None. They want -- they think it or they wouldn't be here.  
14 They don't want an innocent person to get in trouble. But they  
15 think it. They've got blinders on. They're professional  
16 prosecutors. That's their job.

17 You are now the judge. You are now the decider. I  
18 would say to you, don't play the percentages or the  
19 probabilities the way the prosecutors are having to do on this  
20 case or we wouldn't be in this courtroom. He maintains his  
21 innocence, Mr. Ayodele, or we would not be here. But don't  
22 shoot dice on anybody's liberty here. That's what is at stake.  
23 When it comes to liberty, err on the side of liberty.

24 On this one, maybe it's for God to know and man to  
25 wonder, but don't let anyone take anything away from you.

1 There's a great poem, a quote by Rudyard Kipling. "If you can  
2 keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming  
3 it on you, but if you can trust yourself when all men doubt  
4 you."

5 I go back to that word "trust" that the judge brought  
6 up, that I brought up. Trust yourself when you go back there.  
7 Please trust yourself. Stand your ground. Be stronger than  
8 you've ever been. It's an important day. You're involved  
9 here, and you are the final judge. And I'm respectfully asking  
10 you to return a verdict of not guilty on Counts 1 and 2 --

11 Stand up one more time, young man. Mr. Ayodele --  
12 thank you, sir --

13 (DEFENDANT COMPLIES.)

14 **MR. TRAVIS:** -- who has that armor of that presumption  
15 of innocence. And there are reasons on this case where you can  
16 render a verdict of not guilty on this case.

17 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Mr. Travis.

18 **MR. LEWIS:** May we approach, Your Honor?

19 **THE COURT:** You may.

20 (BENCH CONFERENCE OUT OF HEARING OF THE JURY.)

21 **THE LEWIS:** Can we have a short break?

22 **THE COURT:** Yes.

23 **MR. LEWIS:** Five minutes.

24 **THE COURT:** Okay. We're good.

25 (END OF BENCH CONFERENCE.)

1                   **THE COURT:** Ladies and gentlemen, it may be a good  
2 time to take a short break. So I'm going to let you take a  
3 break for about 15 minutes. Do not discuss this case. We'll  
4 be back in in 15 minutes.

5                   (JURY OUT.)

6                   **THE COURT:** We'll be in recess for 15 minutes.

7                   (RECESS TAKEN.)

8                   (JURY IN.)

9                   **THE COURT:** You may have a seat.

10                  Mr. Lewis.

11                  **MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Your Honor.

12                  So, ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to go ahead and  
13 tell y'all I am scared to death right now. I am scared that I  
14 have not made the right arguments, I've not asked the right  
15 questions, I've not done what I need to do, and this is my last  
16 chance to be heard in this case. So I'm going to do the best I  
17 can.

18                  Remember -- and y'all have heard it plenty up to this  
19 point -- the Government has got to prove their case beyond a  
20 reasonable doubt and must prove every element of their case.  
21 So when they're talking about the puzzle, you've got to filter  
22 every piece of the puzzle through this reasonable doubt  
23 calculation.

24                  And as I told you in opening, the proof is going to  
25 show that what the prosecutors have been told and what they

1 have told you is not the whole story. The whole story is a lot  
2 more contradictory and confusing than they think it is. And I  
3 told you that they were not going to bring real evidence, real  
4 evidence that these guys committed this crime. And when they  
5 make the point of defining circumstantial evidence here before  
6 you today, you know that they have got problems with lack of  
7 direct evidence of the crime.

8                   So let's talk about Mr. Coffman for a minute. He is  
9 assuredly a nice person. He wants to help the Government. He  
10 is understandably upset that a crime has been committed in his  
11 town. He did not identify Jamarr on the date of the incident.  
12 He did not. There's just no question about it. He identified  
13 somebody completely different. He identified somebody that had  
14 a reddish goatee and had light skin.

15                  Now, Mr. Coffman is familiar with African Americans  
16 who have reddish hair. He knows that they tend to be very  
17 light-skinned people. He did not mess that up. He identified  
18 the person that is light-skinned with reddish hair, and that is  
19 not Jamarr. There's no way. Okay?

20                  He also identified somebody who's sitting in the car  
21 with a hat and a hoodie that's six feet tall, 170 to  
22 180 pounds. It seems entirely unlikely that he can make that  
23 kind of determination under the circumstances, but let's assume  
24 he did. That is not Jamarr. Okay?

25                  So what happened? Well, we don't know. We do know

1 that the Government was sure enough after Jamarr in June -- or  
2 around June of 2019 when the Google stuff came back. Inspector  
3 Martin, who is part of the investigation, he put the lineup  
4 sheets together, I guess.

5 The Government knew at that point, when these lineup  
6 sheets were put together, that -- that Coffman identified  
7 somebody with light skin and a reddish goatee. And I don't  
8 know a lot about their procedures. I'm not sure Inspector  
9 Martin did either, but wouldn't it make sense for them to put  
10 somebody in that lineup that had reddish hair and light skin?

11 So y'all can look at Exhibit G-21 when you get back  
12 there. You're not going to see anybody in here with reddish  
13 hair and light skin. So if they had done that, would  
14 Mr. Coffman had picked that person? Something to think about.

15 But there's no doubt that Coffman identified somebody  
16 other than Jamarr on the date of the incident. There's no  
17 question about it. And then he supposedly identified Jamarr a  
18 year and a half later. And he's been living all of his life  
19 not thinking about this for that period of time, and he said he  
20 was not 100 percent sure, and that just doesn't add up.

21 And don't get me started on this in court  
22 identification. Okay? You saw Mr. Coffman kind of chuckling  
23 about it, and I guess I would have too if it didn't bother me  
24 so much. But he had been shown a picture of the person that he  
25 identified in the lineup four years ago, and then, God bless

1 him, he was asked to identify that person again in court. He  
2 knew he was looking -- he knew who he was looking for. And,  
3 ladies and gentlemen, you cannot put a lot of -- a lot of  
4 weight in that.

5 So let's look at the -- the jury instruction on  
6 identification. And Mr. Chiniche showed you this, and I'm  
7 going to try not to repeat a lot of things that have already  
8 been done, but I do need to show you this. It says down here  
9 what -- and this is what -- this is the law. Okay? This is  
10 what the Court has told you you must do.

11 "You may also consider the circumstances surrounding  
12 the identification itself, including, for example, the manner  
13 in which the defendants were presented to the witness for  
14 identification and the length of time that elapsed between the  
15 incident in question and the next opportunity the witness had  
16 to observe the defendants." All of those factors are here, and  
17 all of those -- I went over all of that just now.

18 And here's the -- here's some really strong language.  
19 This is strong coming up right now. If, after examining all of  
20 the testimony and evidence in this case, you have a reasonable  
21 doubt as to the identity of the defendants as the perpetrators  
22 of the offense charged, you must, must find the defendants not  
23 guilty. That's pretty strong right there. Okay? That's the  
24 law. Why is that language so strong? Because of what I said  
25 earlier, reasonable doubt. Okay?

1                   All right. Let's talk about technology and Mr. Moody.  
2 And I was the one who cross-examined him; so I'm the one here  
3 today who is going to talk about this a little bit here with  
4 y'all on closing. But I'm going to -- I'm not going to get  
5 into the weeds because I really don't have time, but as y'all  
6 know, he was testifying about two separate things. Okay?

7                   He was talking about what he calls historical cell  
8 site data. Okay. That's commonly called pinging off of  
9 towers, phones connecting with towers. You remember that. And  
10 then he talked about Google location services.

11                  So I think if we've heard anything through this trial,  
12 we have heard that that stuff is not precise. In fact, Google  
13 and these phone companies do not collect that information, do  
14 not have that information for the purpose of solving crimes;  
15 right?

16                  It's designed to -- as far as the cell phone companies  
17 are concerned, it's designed to bill people, figure out if  
18 they're making calls. It's so the phone companies can make  
19 money. And in the case of Google, it's designed to sell ads.  
20 It's designed to help people use their apps. It is by  
21 definition not designed to support criminal prosecutions.

22                  And, of course, the Government is going to tell you  
23 this stuff is good as gold because they have a vested interest  
24 in it being reliable. What else would they say; right?  
25 They're prosecuting people with it.

1           But I think you heard from Mr. Moody that none of this  
2 stuff is generally accepted in the scientific community in this  
3 country. Nobody other than law enforcement is using this to,  
4 you know, prosecute people. Okay? There are no studies about  
5 it. It's not -- you know, there are not scientists at  
6 universities who study this stuff. The data is not verified.  
7 It's not tested. And it's nowhere near as clean and clear and  
8 cut and dry as the Government wants you to think.

9           Now, historical cell site data -- that's the pinging  
10 off the towers -- is not -- and the Government admits this --  
11 is not a precise indicator of where anybody is at any given  
12 time. The Government showed you these wedges. Here's one I  
13 was writing on with Mr. Moody. This is G-25.

14           They are not saying that anybody was within this  
15 colored wedge here. They are saying that if you draw the lines  
16 from a point all the way out -- not into infinity but a long  
17 way -- if you drew them all the way out, more than likely,  
18 somebody was somewhere in that area. Okay? That does not put  
19 anybody at the post office. It's just not that precise. It's  
20 not designed to do that. That's not why cell companies keep  
21 this information.

22           And the other significance is these towers don't  
23 indicate that somebody is close to them at all. The  
24 significance is the device -- that the device could be near  
25 some other tower somewhere else that's overloaded, that's down

1 because of maintenance, that's down because of weather, that's  
2 obscured because of cars and buildings, topography, other  
3 towers, a myriad of factors.

4                   And the point is Mr. Moody did not check one single  
5 thing to say that none of that was present. All right? He  
6 just relied on what the phone company told him. Well, the  
7 phone company is not telling him this, is not providing this  
8 information to prosecute these guys.

9                   He could have. He could have verified all of that  
10 stuff. He could have done a lot of work on this thing, but he  
11 didn't. So don't you think in a case like this where people's  
12 liberty is at stake the Government could do a little more work  
13 on something like this?

14                   Another thing -- and I didn't think this was a huge  
15 point, but I pointed out to Mr. Moody -- this is still G-25 --  
16 that, for example, in his -- in his map, he says up here Cell  
17 Site Data from T-Mobile, Jamarr Smith. I said, "Mr. Moody,  
18 that's misleading." And he gave a really strange answer.  
19 "Okay." Which I intend -- I interpreted to be yes. This is  
20 not saying Jamarr Smith is at these locations, as this  
21 indicates. It's saying a device is at these locations. Okay?  
22 Weak. Weak. It's weak evidence.

23                   All right. Let's talk about Google very quickly.  
24 This is very new stuff. Moody had never testified before. He  
25 didn't know anybody who's testified about it before to a jury.

1 There are a lot of people with eyes on this case. Nobody in  
2 the scientific community has studied it or validated it. Moody  
3 said there can be false positives. The device shows up in the  
4 fence when, in fact, it is not, way more than there are false  
5 negatives.

6 But we do know -- and here's the point. We're not  
7 misdirecting anybody by pointing this out. We're pointing  
8 out -- we're pointing what I'm about to tell you out because it  
9 shows that this technology is not reliable. It's not accurate  
10 because we know that there were tons of people inside the fence  
11 whose device did not show up on -- in this Google data.

12 Mr. Cobbs, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Coffman's girlfriend, conductors of  
13 the train, occupants of the numerous vehicles that were driving  
14 around. You can watch the vehicle and see all of this. Okay?

15 We're not misdirecting you. We're pointing out that  
16 it just doesn't add up. It doesn't make sense. Something's  
17 not right. That data is not reliable. Why did it not show  
18 that?

19 So let's look at the instruction about expert  
20 witnesses. "Merely because such a witness has expressed an  
21 opinion does not mean, however, that you must accept this  
22 opinion. You should judge such testimony like any other  
23 testimony. You may accept it or reject it and give it as much  
24 weight as you think it deserves, considering the witness's  
25 education and experience, the soundness of the reasons given

1 for the opinion, and all other evidence in this case." You do  
2 not have to accept Mr. Moody's opinions in this matter. And I  
3 told you why you should not.

4 People talking to each other is not enough evidence.  
5 I find it odd that the Government thinks that Mr. McThunel  
6 and -- I think it's Mr. Ayodele made a four-minute call in the  
7 middle of this robbery. Does that sound reasonable after what  
8 you saw in the video? Does that make any sense? People talk  
9 to each other a lot. Friends talk to each other a lot. A  
10 four-minute call in the middle of this whole thing?

11 **COURTROOM DEPUTY:** Five minutes.

12 **MR. LEWIS:** Thank you.

13 I'm just going to throw out some things, and then I'm  
14 going to close. The Government thought shutting down your  
15 phone on February 5 was important. They say Chevella Hines  
16 shut down her phone on February 5. She's not over there.  
17 Mr. Brown shut down his phone on February 5. He's not over  
18 there. They thought that was important. They clearly think  
19 Ms. Hines is involved in this thing.

20 Okay. Jamarr works. He rebuilds transmissions. He  
21 works with his hands. He goes to DeSoto County to get his  
22 transmissions. You can look in Exhibit G-24, and he talks  
23 about it. This is on February 20. "I'm headed to pick one up  
24 from Horn Lake. I'll hit you when I get back."

25 Oh, and, by the way, he was clearly in business before

1 this incident. It's in G-24. On January 10 of 2018, "What's  
2 up, Little Twin? I have an '05 Kia Sorento. Do you work on  
3 Kia? It ran hot twice. I was just going to get another motor,  
4 but can you put one in? How much you charge?" "I got you."  
5 So the -- the idea that he opened up his business after this  
6 incident is just not accurate.

7 There's a salvage yard in Walls. You can see from the  
8 Government's map here Walls -- here's Lake Cormorant  
9 (indicating). There's Walls (indicating). There are cell  
10 phone hits in Walls.

11 So think about this. The presumption of innocence  
12 protects us all. It protects Jamarr, obviously, but also  
13 consider this. It protects the prosecutors from getting  
14 wrongful convictions. It protects me, because if he's  
15 convicted and I go home, I will go home with guilt and  
16 nightmares that I didn't do a good enough job to avoid that.  
17 All of the defense lawyers will.

18 But it protects you too. The presumption of innocence  
19 and the burden of proof protects you too because it keeps you  
20 from going home tonight and staring at the ceiling and  
21 wondering have we convicted an innocent man today. Right?

22 The evidence must be so clear that you will never  
23 worry that you've convicted an innocent person. Your not  
24 guilty vote is your power. Any one of you can decide not to  
25 convict. Each one of you individually has the power. Do not

1 give up your honest convictions.

2 Jamarr works with his hands. I'm going to tell you  
3 another story about hands. There's an old wise man, and  
4 there's a young smart-aleck boy. And the young boy goes to the  
5 wise man all of the time and the wise man -- and asks him  
6 questions, and the wise man always has the right answer, and it  
7 bothers the young boy.

8 So he says, I've got an idea. I'm going to go out in  
9 the woods, and I'm going to find a bird. I'm going to put it  
10 in my hands. I'm going to go to the wise man, and I'm going to  
11 say, "Is the bird in my hands alive or is it dead?" And if the  
12 old man says the bird is dead, I'm going to open my hands, and  
13 the bird is going to fly away. But if he says the bird is  
14 alive, I'm going to crush the bird and open my hands and say,  
15 "No, you're wrong. The bird is dead." And I'm going -- I'm  
16 going to get him.

17 So he did that. He went out in the woods, and he got  
18 a bird, and he came to the old man. He said, "Old Man, I have  
19 a bird in my hands. Is it alive or is it dead?" And the old  
20 man said, "The bird is in your hands." I'm going to leave  
21 Jamarr in your hands.

22 Thank you, Your Honor.

23 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Mr. Lewis.

24 Mr. McGee.

25 **MR. McGEE:** May it please the Court.

1           They almost got away with it, didn't they? It was  
2 close. They almost did. What they didn't realize is there was  
3 a camera pointed at them. There was a camera pointed at them.  
4 It picked up two of three of the vehicles.

5           They didn't leave a glove on the scene. Mr. McThunel  
6 didn't leave his mask on the scene. He didn't leave his DNA on  
7 the scene. He didn't leave a footprint on the scene. But you  
8 know what they forgot about? They forgot about these  
9 (indicating). Jamarr Smith. Gilbert McThunel. Thomas  
10 Ayodele.

11           What do these do? We've learned this. What do these  
12 do? Y'all probably already knew it. They keep track of us.  
13 They follow every move. It's almost like dropping -- it's  
14 almost like they dropped a map. They dropped a map that this  
15 agent right here -- Alabama and Mississippi agents used  
16 cutting-edge technology, cutting-edge technology -- we're in  
17 2018 here -- they used cutting-edge technology to bring you all  
18 of this evidence I'm about to show you that you've already  
19 seen. I submit to you that's impressive.

20           Let's talk about what -- what the -- what the  
21 defendant said in their -- in their closing arguments.  
22 Hopefully, my clicker will work or I might have to get you to  
23 assist. I did try it before. I apologize.

24           And I'll start. Just like Mr. Smith (sic) just  
25 said -- let's start with Mr. McThunel. A cancelled cell

1 phone -- a cancelled cell phone is important. That's what  
2 they -- that's what Mr. McThunel's attorney said. It's  
3 important. But selling your car three days after the robbery  
4 is not important.

5 Subscriber information, now, that's important.  
6 Travonya Nash, that's important, that's important. But Google  
7 subscriber information, not important. And the number given to  
8 buy his car -- to buy the new car three days after the robbery,  
9 that's not important. Don't look at that, y'all. Don't look.

10 Permanentwavesrecords going through the geofence at  
11 5:58 p.m., that's important. But my clients going through the  
12 geofence, that's not important. Let's look at why Cobbs's is  
13 not in there, Coffman. Let's look at everybody else. There's  
14 a dark SUV, a dark sedan, a red pickup that crossed through the  
15 geofence. That's important. What about my clients' vehicles?  
16 That's not important.

17 What about Smith's Facebook records that he showed you  
18 to open a business? He was already in business is what he  
19 said, and he used the Facebook records to corroborate that.  
20 Well, guess what else is in those Facebook records? That 6029  
21 number we've been looking at, it says, "This is my number."  
22 You can't have it both ways.

23 So what you have to believe to acquit -- and this is  
24 all based on their arguments -- that three people borrowed  
25 three of their phones, and they all talked to each other, and

1       they were all at the scene of the robbery, and they took two  
2       out of the three of the defendants' cars. And Cobbs was not  
3       right that it was a red Hyundai. Coffman wasn't right about  
4       the red Hyundai.

5           And out of 18 people, Coffman, with a one in eighteen  
6       shot, he picked the person who just so happened his GPS put him  
7       at the scene by satellite -- his phone records, the cell tower  
8       put him at the scene, whose girlfriend was the postmaster at  
9       Robinsonville and Lake Cormorant, who has a picture in front of  
10      the white SUV you see.

11           Now, we talked about phone communications. And,  
12       again, you can go count these to back me up, but this was my  
13       rough counting. I just counted each line. And this is what we  
14       have, that these people were talking this much between 4:00  
15       and 6:45 p.m. on the day of the robbery.

16           Jamarr Smith, 19 times with Gilbert McThunel; 18 times  
17       with Thomas Ayodele; Chevelia Hines, 16 times; Gilbert  
18       McThunel, 4 times. Remember -- you see this picture on the  
19       right where the white SUV has got -- where he's dropping off?  
20       Remember, they were riding together, McThunel and Ayodele.  
21       Does this look like a conspiracy to y'all? Talking, same  
22       place.

23           I want you to focus on these times real quick, 5:20 to  
24       5:32. That's when you heard -- that's when the actual robbery  
25       occurred. Now, obviously, it was planned way in advance;

1 right? But this is when the robbery occurred. Twelve minutes.  
2 That's pretty good. As we talked about earlier, pretty good.

3 I want you to watch this video. This is one of the  
4 animations. Jamarr Smith in yellow, Gilbert McThunel in red,  
5 Thomas Ayodele in green. 5:20, 5:22, 5:24, 5:25, 5:26, 5:27,  
6 5:29. And that's it.

7 Jamarr Smith. Let's talk about Jamarr real quick.  
8 We've already heard -- this is a picture of him and Chevelia  
9 Hines. Who's that again? Y'all know it. Postmaster,  
10 Robinsonville/Lake Cormorant. This is him in the picture I was  
11 talking about earlier in front of the vehicle. This is him  
12 with Mr. Thomas Ayodele.

13 This is Jamarr Smith. This is his Facebook records.  
14 "Tried calling you at your other number; so I need to replace  
15 it with this one." That's on 2/7/2018. Look at those dates.  
16 2/1, before the robbery -- you've got before and after right  
17 there. "What's your number?" "662-360-6029." Who's  
18 misleading? Who is misleading y'all? That's -- that's Jamarr  
19 Smith's words right there in his records that were just relied  
20 on by his attorney.

21 Next slide, please. Keep going.

22 Okay. Jamarr Smith right here. This is what we got  
23 back from Google right there on the locations.

24 Go ahead.

25 There's his four locations.

1                   Next.

2                   This is when -- this is right when he -- I screenshot  
3                   it. This is right when he met Forest Coffman. You can see  
4                   Forest Coffman right there on the corner. You can see Jamarr  
5                   Smith. Obviously, you can't see inside the car, but you can  
6                   see the same car that he talked about.

7                   Next.

8                   Okay. These were the three Google hits that we got  
9                   from a satellite GPS.

10                  Click it again.

11                  Now, we talk about accuracy. Now, counsel opposite  
12                  even said -- Mr. Smith's attorney said during his direct what  
13                  he said is not evidence, but he even said GPS is accurate.  
14                  This is the post office where the yellow arrow is. And watch  
15                  this. Mr. Mims pointed this out, but I really want you to  
16                  focus on this.

17                  One more, Robin.

18                  That is where Forest Coffman said they met, and it  
19                  says it on camera. And Jamarr Smith is hitting in a circle  
20                  that's right there (indicating). So, again, you have to  
21                  disbelieve that someone picked one out of 18 -- picked him,  
22                  circled him. And, oh, by the way, his phone put him in a  
23                  circle right around the area where he said he met him right at  
24                  the time. Look at these times. 5:22, 5:24, and 5:25.

25                  Again, that's what we talked about, and there's the

1 lineup. This is Thomas Ayodele. There's the SUV right there.  
2 This is leaving -- or on the left side of the screen, this is  
3 dropping off Mr. McThunel, and then this is after he picked him  
4 up leaving the scene. Now, you tell me if that vehicle looks  
5 like the same vehicle.

6 And, again --

7 Next slide.

8 -- whose phone was there? Oh, I forgot to tell you  
9 this. You see Mr. Jamarr Smith standing in front of the Yukon.

10 Next.

11 This is Mr. Ayodele's phone records. Now, it's  
12 subscribed in his name. It puts him going with them to the  
13 scene. Do y'all remember what Patra Malone said? She said she  
14 doesn't know anybody in Batesville. So Little Bo? She didn't  
15 know who Little Bo was.

16 So you would have to believe that a phone subscribed  
17 in his name was taken by someone and texted with Patra Malone  
18 during the time of the robbery, like, right after. It just  
19 doesn't -- I'm trying to even think of what you would have to  
20 believe, and I can't even do it because it doesn't make sense.

21 Next.

22 Gilbert McThunel. Seven hits. Seven hits between --  
23 remember what I told you -- 5:20 to 5:30. Look at these times.  
24 5:22, 5:24, 5:27, 5:27, 5:28, 5:28, 5:30. There's your circles  
25 that they're supposed to be. There's his travel. Subscribed

1 in his name. Got his cell phone right there.

2 Next.

3 There's the post office.

4 Next.

5 This is -- we don't even have to just believe Google.

6 You also got cell towers; right? This is the number he also  
7 provided to Kirk. We don't have to just rely on Google, but we  
8 can rely on Kirk too. These are his towers -- Lake Cormorant,  
9 Walls, and Walls -- pointed down towards Lake Cormorant, if you  
10 can see just north of that red flag.

11 Next.

12 Last, the red Hyundai Sonata. Now, it may have been  
13 an accident, but Mr. Chiniche even said red Hyundai. He said  
14 it when he was describing it in the video. Sylvester Cobbs  
15 said on the 911 call it's a red Hyundai. Forest Coffman said  
16 red Hyundai. Three days later, McThunel sells it, buys another  
17 car.

18 Next.

19 **COURTROOM DEPUTY:** Two minutes.

20 **MR. McGEE:** Thank you.

21 So, ladies and gentlemen, this thing -- this thing  
22 provides a lot of evidence on you. It does. And there's a lot  
23 of evidence in this case that you've seen and you've got on the  
24 screen. Y'all are smart. I'm not going to pressure you. I'm  
25 not going to make you feel guilty and tell you to go -- when

1 you go to sleep tonight, are you going to feel -- are you going  
2 to look up at the ceiling and feel guilty about this or that.  
3 I'm not going to do that to you.

4 I'm just going to submit to you that I have presented  
5 the evidence. I've presented all of the evidence we have. And  
6 I would submit that the Government has proved that it connects  
7 the dots. But you're a smart jury, and I leave it with you.

8 Thank you.

9 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Mr. McGee.

10 So at this time, I'll tell you, Mr. Xxxxx, you have  
11 been our alternate. So it's my pleasure -- and probably yours  
12 as well -- to excuse you at this time.

13 Thank you very much for your service. Thank you for  
14 being attentive throughout the trial and listening and prepared  
15 to step in. And you see why we pick alternates. We lost that  
16 alternate the first day; so that's the reason. So we don't  
17 have to stop the trial and start all over. Thank you for your  
18 service, sir.

19 (ALTERNATE JUROR NUMBER 2 EXCUSED.)

20 **THE COURT:** So what I'm about to do is send you to the  
21 jury room to deliberate. Let's talk about some steps between  
22 here and there.

23 First thing is, as soon as I get you out, I'll get the  
24 lawyers to come to the table and document by document go  
25 through it to make sure all of the exhibits are there and

1 accounted for. Ms. Tracy will bring you the exhibits, the  
2 instructions, a copy of the indictment. You'll have that.

3 It is typical that, when you first get back there,  
4 some may need to go to the restroom, others pick a snack or  
5 something; so don't start deliberating until all 12 of you are  
6 seated at the table. If during the course of the day you need  
7 to take a break, take a break. That's on you.

8 I've already instructed you you'll pick a foreperson,  
9 and that foreperson will be who kind of guides you through your  
10 process back there and then speaks for you if need to come back  
11 in here.

12 Because you are now charged with this case, we bring  
13 lunch to you so that you don't have to go out and get lunch.  
14 That would not be -- in other words, I'm going to keep you in  
15 the jury room until we have a decision. So what will happen  
16 next when you get back there is a lady will come back and --  
17 with a menu, get your lunch, and that will be ordered for you  
18 and brought in.

19 You certainly don't have to wait on that. You can  
20 start deliberating and then take a lunch break, or you can work  
21 through lunch. All of this is left up to your discretion once  
22 you get in the jury room. It's just important that all 12 of  
23 you are participating. Okay?

24 So I'm going to dismiss you at this time, send you to  
25 the jury room. We'll do our business right here and then start

1 bringing you those documents. I've already indicated to you  
2 that if you get ready to see a video or hear an audio and wish  
3 some assistance with that, I can make arrangements to get you  
4 some assistance to listen.

5 You're discharged. You are welcome to go to the jury  
6 room and start your deliberations.

7 (JURY OUT AT 12:14 P.M.)

8 **THE COURT:** Counselors, if I could get you to come on  
9 up with Tracy and start going through those exhibits, make sure  
10 they're all accounted for.

11 (RECESSED AT 12:14 P.M.)

12 (NOTE FROM THE JURY, 3:37 P.M.)

13 **THE COURT:** Okay. Let the record reflect that we're  
14 back in the courtroom without the jury with all of the  
15 attorneys and the parties. We have a question that has been  
16 presented by the jury, and for the record, I'll read it into  
17 the record. Copies have been provided to you.

18 It reads, "Confusion on Count 1 between indictment and  
19 jury instructions.

20 "Indictment is a conspiracy charge showing involvement  
21 between the defendants. This is not a charge of robbery;  
22 correct?

23 "Conviction of Count 1 is just showing involvement of  
24 the count. This is not just the person physically performing  
25 the act of robbery. Is our understanding correct?" Signed and

1 dated by, I assume, the foreperson.

2 So I'll hear first from the Government. We're going  
3 to take this kind of in paragraph form. It's a little unusual  
4 the way it's being presented to us here between -- Mr. Lewis,  
5 I'll pick on you -- whether or not it's a statement or a  
6 question.

7 So that first two lines, "Confusion on Count 1 between  
8 indictment and jury instructions," I think is nothing more than  
9 him saying this is our problem. Okay? No response needed  
10 there.

11 Next, "Indictment is a conspiracy charge showing  
12 involvement between the defendants. This is not a charge for  
13 robbery; correct?"

14 What says the Government as to whether or not to  
15 respond and, if so, how?

16 **MR. MIMS:** Your Honor, I think we need to respond  
17 because they have questions, and I think we need to try to give  
18 them some guidance and direction. And in looking at that, I  
19 think the appropriate answer or response would be "They are  
20 charged with conspiring to commit a robbery." I think that's  
21 consistent with Count 1 in the indictment, and it clarifies --  
22 well, I think it clarifies. Who knows? But they're charged  
23 with conspiring to commit a robbery.

24 **THE COURT:** I want to write your words down.

25 Okay. You suggest they are charged with conspiracy to

1 commit a robbery, and I'm going to add -- for discussion  
2 purposes, I'm going to preface that by saying "in Count 1."

3 **MR. MIMS:** Yes, Your Honor. And, really, to be more  
4 specific, I guess I should say "the defendants are charged  
5 with" instead of "they."

6 **THE COURT:** Okay. So, Counselors, it would read as  
7 follows: In Count 1, the defendants are charged with  
8 conspiracy to commit a robbery.

9 **MR. CHINICHE:** Yes, Your Honor.

10 **MR. TRAVIS:** I have no objection, Your Honor.

11 **MR. CHINICHE:** Well, I mean, my position is that we  
12 don't need a response to the jury and -- other than a note from  
13 Your Honor saying the jury instructions and the indictment are  
14 there for your benefit. And we -- we would object to  
15 responding in anything other than what they've already got.

16 And so --

17 **THE COURT:** Okay.

18 **MR. CHINICHE:** -- I think we ought to attach the note  
19 that we got from the jury to the trial transcript as well.

20 **THE COURT:** It will be. It will be part of the  
21 transcript.

22 **MR. CHINICHE:** Yes, Your Honor.

23 And so I think just -- I think the jury has everything  
24 that they need because it's pattern jury instructions, and it's  
25 the indictment that presumably tracks the statute. And so,

1 therefore, no -- no additional instruction is needed; instead,  
2 a directive to read what they've already got in front of them.

3 Thank you.

4 **THE COURT:** Okay. That's your opinion.

5 Mr. Lewis.

6 **MR. LEWIS:** Yeah. I agree with that, Your Honor.

7 I'm -- I'm scared to speculate about what they're really asking  
8 here. I don't think I understand the question, I'm sorry to  
9 say. But if their question is does the indictment contain a  
10 conspiracy to rob a post office count -- and it's late in the  
11 afternoon. I'm going to go ahead and say this -- Ray Charles  
12 could read this and see that it contains a conspiracy to rob a  
13 post office count. I don't think the indictment is confusing  
14 on that; so I don't know why we would need to send that  
15 information back in there.

16 **MR. McGEE:** Your Honor, may we have a moment to --

17 **THE COURT:** Hang on just one second. I also need to  
18 hear from Mr. Travis.

19 **MR. TRAVIS:** May it please the Court. For the sake of  
20 continuity, Your Honor, I will join in with Mr. Lewis's and  
21 Mr. Chiniche's position on behalf of Mr. Ayodele.

22 **THE COURT:** Okay.

23 **MR. McGEE:** Your Honor, this may be a -- let me know  
24 when you're ready for me.

25 **THE COURT:** Okay. I'm ready.

1                   **MR. McGEE:** So I -- this -- maybe everybody will  
2 agree. I don't know. I read it as, they've looked at the jury  
3 instruction that defines robbery, and it gives those elements,  
4 and they're getting confused because the indictment says  
5 conspiracy.

6                   **THE COURT:** I think you're right.

7                   **MR. McGEE:** The next instruction says conspiracy  
8 within the conspiracy instruction.

9                   **THE COURT:** I could say, "You are correct. You're  
10 smarter than everybody else in the courtroom, detected this  
11 discrepancy."

12                  **MR. McGEE:** So I -- what I would propose -- and would  
13 love to hear from the other side, but what I would propose is  
14 that we point them to the conspiracy jury instruction, and I  
15 think where they're confused is it says the crime of robbery  
16 here, but what I don't think they understand -- I'm sorry.

17                  So I would direct them to this because the conspiracy  
18 is the charge, and then the definition of robbery is in the  
19 instruction before. And I personally think where they're  
20 getting confused is they're looking at this instruction saying,  
21 "Wait a minute. This says he's charged -- they're charged with  
22 robbery. Do each one of these people have to do this?" But  
23 really this is just the definition of robbery with the  
24 conspiracy that's -- that's stated in the conspiracy element.

25                  **THE COURT:** You know what? I mean, that's -- that

1 first paragraph is misleading. The indictment charges the  
2 defendants with robbery, and yet we're telling them it's  
3 conspiring to commit robbery.

4 **MR. MIMS:** Actually, Your Honor, I don't think the  
5 first paragraph is misleading because that's Count 2.

6 **THE COURT:** Yeah, but it is probably the way I read  
7 it. I'm concerned now that I got them confused in reading 7 --  
8 and then your other instruction is 8, isn't it, Mr. McGee? The  
9 one you first put on the screen is Number 8?

10 **MR. McGEE:** It's Number 8, yes, ma'am. This is the  
11 conspiracy. Now, it does say they are charged with conspiring  
12 to rob, but it also doesn't talk about which count is which. I  
13 think maybe say in Count 1. I don't -- I don't know how adding  
14 to a jury instruction -- but that may clear it up. In Count 1,  
15 they are charged with conspiring to rob.

16 **MR. CHINICHE:** Count 1 is conspiracy to rob. Count 2  
17 is aiding and abetting in the robbery.

18 **THE COURT:** Yeah.

19 **MR. CHINICHE:** And all we're doing in jury instruction  
20 Number 8 on the screen here is defining what a conspiracy is,  
21 and Jury Instruction Number 7 previously defines what robbery  
22 is, I believe.

23 **THE COURT:** Okay. I hear your position, defendants,  
24 and that was with respect that -- what I'm going to call the  
25 second paragraph. Hold on a minute with me, and let's go to

1 the second paragraph because we're all in agreement they're  
2 still talking about Count 1; right?

3 **MR. MIMS:** Yes.

4 **THE COURT:** Yes?

5 **MR. McGEE:** Yes.

6 **THE COURT:** Okay. I think I understand what they're  
7 asking, and it's a fair concern between the indictment and the  
8 instructions. I am inclined to respond, in large part, because  
9 I have found over the years that jurors do not like the fact  
10 that you tell them they can ask you a question but then you  
11 refuse to respond to their question.

12 I can -- may I suggest that I take Jury Instruction  
13 Number 8, highlight the second paragraph, respond no further,  
14 and send it back?

15 **MR. CHINICHE:** We're okay with that, Your Honor.

16 **MR. LEWIS:** Yes, Your Honor.

17 **MR. TRAVIS:** That's fine, Your Honor.

18 **MR. MIMS:** I'm sorry. I'm a little bit confused.

19 **THE COURT:** Take Instruction Number 8 --

20 **MR. MIMS:** Okay. Go ahead.

21 **THE COURT:** -- allow me to highlight the second  
22 paragraph.

23 **MR. MIMS:** This one right here (indicating)?

24 **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

25 **MR. MIMS:** Okay.

1                   **THE COURT:** Say nothing more and send it back.

2                   **MR. MIMS:** I certainly don't have any objection if  
3 that's what the Court wants to do. I have one more suggestion  
4 to throw out. And that might be to bring them in, read them  
5 Count 1 of the indictment, and then read them the jury  
6 instruction that corresponds with conspiracy and then read them  
7 Count 2 of the indictment, and read them the jury instruction  
8 that corresponds to Count 2 for substantive, plus perhaps  
9 aiding and abetting, because those two go to Count 2 and  
10 conspiracy goes to Count 1. Or just do it for Count 1 since  
11 Count 1 is the one they have questions on. Just read them  
12 Count 1 and read them the conspiracy charge in its entirety.

13                   **MR. LEWIS:** Your Honor, with all due respect to  
14 Mr. Mims, I've never heard of a jury be reinstructed on the  
15 law. I would object to that.

16                   **THE COURT:** I may have erred, but I've done it before.

17                   **MR. LEWIS:** Okay. Okay.

18                   **THE COURT:** Simply by doing essentially what I'm  
19 suggesting, not adding a thing. Simply resubmitting to their  
20 attention a paragraph.

21                   **MR. LEWIS:** Well, we don't have any objection to you  
22 highlighting and sending it back into the jury room. I think  
23 what Mr. Mims is asking is something much --

24                   **THE COURT:** It is. It is. I understand, but I'm  
25 going to try that first. Okay?

1                   Okay. Here's your question. You go print me  
2 something I can highlight.

3                   And I'll let you see it before I send it back, and  
4 then we will wait.

5                   (PAUSE IN PROCEEDINGS.)

6                   **THE COURT:** Okay. Tracy, pass that around. Let  
7 everybody glance at it and see if it is okay.

8                   **MR. McGEE:** I'm good with this.

9                   **MR. TRAVIS:** Mr. Ayodele approves.

10                   **MR. LEWIS:** No objection, Your Honor.

11                   **MR. CHINICHE:** That's good. Thank you.

12                   **THE COURT:** Okay. We'll be in recess. Tracy, you may  
13 deliver that to the jury with no comment.

14                   (RECESSED AT 3:51 P.M.)

15                   (OPEN COURT AT 4:00 P.M.)

16                   **THE COURT:** It's 4:00. I'm advised that we have a  
17 verdict. So you may bring in the jury.

18                   (JURY IN AT 4:01 P.M.)

19                   **THE COURT:** You may have a seat. Ladies and  
20 gentlemen, I see a -- a young gentleman that has a notebook --  
21 piece of paper in his hand or paper. So I assume we have a  
22 verdict.

23                   **JURY FOREPERSON:** Yes, ma'am. Your Honor, we do.

24                   **THE COURT:** You may hand it to the court security  
25 officer.

1                   So I shall read the verdict as to each defendant. And  
2 the Court sees that the form is correct. It has been signed as  
3 indicated in the blanks, and it has been -- it has the  
4 signature of the foreperson and the date.

5                   I read you as follows: As to Count 1 of the  
6 indictment, we, the jury, find the Defendant Jamarr Smith  
7 guilty. As to Count 2 of the indictment, we, the jury, find  
8 the Defendant Jamarr Smith guilty.

9                   As to Count 1 of the indictment, we, the jury, find  
10 the Defendant Thomas Ayodele guilty. As to Count 2, we find  
11 the defendant guilty.

12                   As to Count 1 of the indictment, we, the jury, find  
13 Gilbert McThunel guilty. As to Count 2 of the indictment, we,  
14 the jury, find the Defendant McThunel guilty.

15                   Do any of the defendants desire to poll the jury?

16                   **MR. LEWIS:** Yes, Your Honor.

17                   **MR. TRAVIS:** Thank you, Your Honor.

18                   **THE COURT:** So, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you  
19 remember that one of your instructions was that the verdict had  
20 to be unanimous. So how I determine that is simply asking you,  
21 when I call your name, to stand and say -- because there's  
22 three defendants, I'm going to make it simple and just say,  
23 "Yes, that's my verdict." You heard me read the verdict guilty  
24 on both counts to all three. So you don't have to do them one  
25 by one. Okay?

1                   So, Mr. XXXX, I'll start with you. Is this your  
2 verdict?

3 JUROR: Yes.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Xxxxx?

5 JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Ms. XXXXXXXX?

7 JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Ms. Xxxxxxx?

9 JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Mr. -- excuse me. Ms. XXXXXXXX?

11 JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: And Mr. Xxxxxxx?

13 || JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Xxxxxx?

15 JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

16 | THE COURT: Ms. Xxxxxx?

17 JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Ms. Xxxxxxx?

19 JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Ms. XXXXXXXXX?

21 JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

22 | **THE COURT:** Mr. Xxx?

23 JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: And Ms. Xxxxxxxxx?

25 || **JUROR:** Yes, Your Honor.

1                   **THE COURT:** Very well. Are you satisfied, Counselors?

2                   **MR. CHINICHE:** Yes, Your Honor.

3                   **MR. TRAVIS:** Yes. Thank you, Your Honor.

4                   **THE COURT:** Okay. So, ladies and gentlemen, at this  
5 time what I'd like to do is thank you publicly in the presence  
6 of the lawyers because they're not in a position to do that,  
7 but I can assure you that I know they're very, very  
8 appreciative of your willingness to listen. You've been very  
9 attentive. You've heard a lot of testimony. So thank you.  
10 Thank you for your jury service, and thank you for your service  
11 in this particular case.

12                   I am going to excuse you back to the jury room, and  
13 I'll actually come back there. It's my practice to come back,  
14 and you can ask me anything you want to ask me at this point  
15 because it's over. You get to even go home and talk about it  
16 tonight if you want to. So I'll come back and answer your  
17 questions.

18                   I do have some matters I have to take up very briefly  
19 with the defendants in the courtroom before I can come back  
20 there. So be back there shortly. Thank you.

21                   (JURY OUT AT 4:05 P.M.)

22                   **THE COURT:** Y'all may have a seat. Consider yourself  
23 in recess for just a moment. She's going to get the bond  
24 reports.

25                   (PAUSE IN PROCEEDINGS.)

1                   **THE COURT:** Okay. So I assume that the defendants  
2 want to make bond or continue to make bond?

3                   **MR. LEWIS:** That's correct, Your Honor.

4                   **THE COURT:** So I've just briefly here reviewed all  
5 three bond reports, and as to all three, it's recommended that  
6 the defendant be released on the same bond with conditions of  
7 release continued as to all three.

8                   Does the Government have any objection?

9                   **MR. MIMS:** I do, Your Honor.

10                  Your Honor, under 18 U.S.C. Code, Section 3143, the  
11 standard changes, and it talks about release or detention  
12 pending sentencing. It says, "The judicial officer shall order  
13 that a person who has been found guilty of an offense be  
14 detained, unless the Court finds -- I think it's by clear and  
15 convincing evidence, is not likely to flee or pose a danger to  
16 the safety of any other person or the community if released."

17                  The standard changes once they are convicted at trial.  
18 We have three defendants convicted of an armed robbery, and  
19 despite the fact they may have been on good behavior during  
20 their pretrial detention, I believe at this point the burden  
21 has shifted, things have changed, and they should be detained.

22                  **THE COURT:** Can I see your rule book a minute? Or  
23 tell me the number. I can do it right here.

24                  What number was it, Mr. Mims?

25                  **MR. MIMS:** Your Honor, it was 3143. And I was reading

1 it a minute ago, and it's got a Subsection A and a Subsection  
2 B -- or I'm sorry -- Subsection A, and then it talks about  
3 Paragraph 1 and Paragraph 2, and I actually think Paragraph 2  
4 applies, but I can't necessarily figure out what the real  
5 difference is in the two of them.

6 **THE COURT:** Okay. Mr. Mims, I believe you are  
7 correct. Under 3143, it says, "The judicial officer shall  
8 order that a person who has been found of an offense and who is  
9 awaiting sentence," dah, dah, dah, "be detained, unless the  
10 officer finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person  
11 is not likely to flee or pose a danger to the community."

12 And then it appears also that 2 may apply -- not  
13 apply, I should say. (A)(i), I am not finding at this juncture  
14 that a substantial likelihood that a motion for acquittal or  
15 new trial will be granted. Neither am I finding that an  
16 attorney for the Government has recommended that no sentence of  
17 imprisonment be imposed.

18 Because all of you -- Government, you contend this is  
19 one year or more? Mr. Mims?

20 **MR. MIMS:** Oh, I'm sorry.

21 **THE COURT:** I mean, you're not asking for no  
22 sentence --

23 **MR. MIMS:** I'm not. No, ma'am.

24 **THE COURT:** -- or incarceration? And then (B) is  
25 where I could find by clear and convincing evidence that the

1 person is not likely to flee or pose a danger to any other  
2 persons. So under that condition, I could release.

3 I'm not going to today. I'm going to take them into  
4 custody. But I am going to tell you that I think it is  
5 probably appropriate at some point to have a hearing under (B).  
6 I'm just not doing that today, determining by clear and  
7 convincing evidence that they're not likely to flee.

8 So they will be taken into custody. You need to make  
9 contact with the marshal service.

10 The tentative sentencing date in this case is  
11 May 30th, 2023.

12 Okay. Are there any other matters from the Government  
13 for the record?

14 **MR. MIMS:** No, Your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** Any other matters for defense counsel for  
16 the record?

17 **MR. LEWIS:** Your Honor, I would just state, as to  
18 Jamarr Smith, we are prepared to go forward with a hearing  
19 today -- his mother is here -- on this bond issue. In other  
20 words, I can call a witness. Is there some indication of how  
21 long they would be confined before hearing?

22 **THE COURT:** I bet you might file your motion next  
23 week, and we will set it as soon as possible. Okay?

24 **MR. LEWIS:** That's all I have.

25 **THE COURT:** Any others?

1                   **MR. TRAVIS:** Nothing else, Your Honor. Thank you.

2                   **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you, Counselors.

3                   (CONCLUDED AT 4:13 P.M.)

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## CERTIFICATE

3 I, Phyllis K. McLarty, Federal Official Realtime Court  
4 Reporter, in and for the United States District Court for the  
5 Northern District of Mississippi, do hereby certify that  
6 pursuant to Section 753, Title 28, United States Code, that the  
7 foregoing 1-707 pages, Volumes 1 through 5, are a true and  
8 correct transcript of the stenographically reported proceedings  
9 held in the above-entitled matter and that the transcript page  
10 format is in conformance with the regulations of the Judicial  
11 Conference of the United States.

12 Witness my hand, this 31st day of August, 2023

/s/ Phyllis K. McLarty  
PHYLLIS K. McLARTY, RMR, FCRR, CCR #1235  
Federal Official Court Reporter